

the Bulletin

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.
Spring 2009



2004



1989

1993

2007

1974

1982

1997



1994

1990



1980

1991

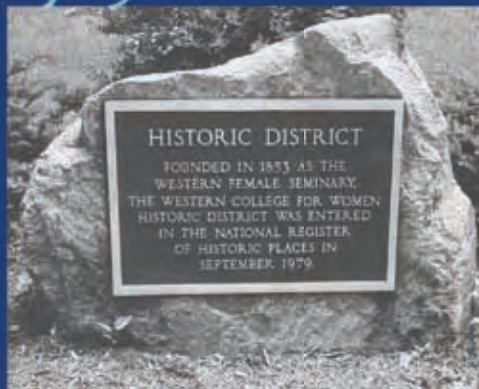


1984

1981

1999

1979



2005

1996



2009...

Thirty-five years . . . and counting!

From the WCAA Director



Judy K. Waldron,
Director, WCAA

Precious

1: *of great value or high price* <precious jewels>

2: *highly esteemed or cherished* <a precious friend>

— From Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

I had just returned from a delicious lunch at Clawson with several lively Western alumni. (Yes, Latin majors, I am aware the female plural is *alumnae*, but the majority of these folks were men.) I was struck, once again, with the special qualities I see in those who have been part of Western: Passion for learning and gratitude for excellent teaching, action based in concern for the greater good of the Western community, and — most of all — curiosity and independence of thought. Oh, yes, I must not forget much laughter and joy!

When Westerners come back for reunions, when I meet them in cities throughout the country, the story is the same ... the “Western spirit” is everywhere. Perhaps it was already in them when they came to Western, but it surely was kindled and refined in those halls where honor and individual responsibility were practiced and creative thought and expression were encouraged.

In my experience, these qualities are becoming rarer and rarer. As defined above, each one who was connected with Western College is precious ... **YOU are precious.** In this spirit, I invite each and every one of YOU to join with others and create a lasting tribute to Western College and the values it embodied. Make your gift, one and all, great or small, to our 35th Anniversary Reunion Gift — the new **Western College Professorship!**

And, come to Reunion ... June 19-21!

Judy K. Waldron

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Mission of the Association:

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

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On the cover: Pictures from our WCAA photo files illustrate a few highlights from our first 35 years.

Credits: Front and back cover designs by Debbie Baker.



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What's on Your Mind?

Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65 was the guest speaker at an event February 10, sponsored by Miami's Office of Diversity Affairs, Miami University Libraries, Western College Alumnae Association, and Western College Memorial Archives in celebration of Black History Month. Janet is currently a lecturer and vice president for campus life at Princeton University. We are pleased to share excerpts of her talk, "My Giant Goes with Me: Reflections on Identity, Citizenship, the Oxford 'Bubble' and the Relevance of an Intercultural Education"; the address in its entirety is available upon request from the WCAA office.

Why the title? In 1964, Western College was the host campus for the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project training program. LBJ was President. The Voting Rights Act was signed. The Black Nationalist movement was taking hold. The nation was lurching toward "The Sixties" as we know it ... my colleague Bill Bowen, a former president of Princeton, has been quoted as saying that "the Sixties" didn't officially start until mid-decade."



Janet Dickerson

That same summer, I participated in the Western College Seminar in the Middle East: Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy; Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iran, Israel, Turkey, Denmark. It was an amazing journey ... Product of that travel experience: "My Giant Goes with Me," a reflection on my issues around race and citizenship. (Not sure how the assignment was conceived, but the poem takes its title from Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay, "Self Reliance"):

Traveling is a fool's paradise. Our first journeys discover to us the indifference of places. At home I dream that at Naples, at Rome, I can be intoxicated with beauty, and lose my sadness. I pack my trunk, and embrace my friends, embark on the sea, and at last wake up in Naples, and there beside me is the stern fact, the sad self, unrelenting, identical, that I fled from. I seek the Vatican, and the palaces. I affect to be intoxicated with sights and suggestions, but I am not intoxicated. My giant goes with me wherever I go.

For a brief moment, in Rome, I felt as if my ethnicity didn't matter. I was not weighed down by "My Giant." In most of the countries we visited I was an "exotic" — an American Negro. In Egypt they found it hard to believe that I was allowed to travel freely. In Iran I was overlooked. In many communities, the natives yearningly asked me about opportunity, and whether "the streets of America were paved with gold."

Now each of us may have our own "Giant"; for me I think race/ethnicity was the predominant issue in my story, but it could have been hair issues (a lifelong challenge!), or

discomfort at being categorized as "other" when I was seeking to be accepted as an individual. I think I was seeking dignity, recognition, value, voice, acceptance for my authentic self. I recall discovering that, for that one day in Italy, I escaped from the constraints I have felt before and afterward, constraints connected to my race and the way I was perceived by others. Always before, and nearly always afterward, I was, as the German citizens I met on a Fulbright tour described their emotional constraints after the fall of the Berlin Wall, limited by "the wall in my mind." Of course, that wall existed in the minds of other Americans, too — when racism was a defining aspect of American culture.

Context of my story: I am from South Carolina. My county, Bamberg County, is inland, surrounded by cotton and soy fields. Our town, Denmark, which is a flag stop on Amtrak's Silver Star train line, boasted of having "the largest Golden Guernsey Farm in the World." Like other South Carolina towns, it also had: deeply segregated schools and communities; segregated towns, libraries, theaters, recreational facilities, beaches, train and bus stations, public bathrooms, etc.; "Impeach Earl Warren" signs; the Ku Klux Klan. Voting rights were not assured. There was no public contact between races beyond necessary contacts with merchants and employers. ...

Going back to the issue of "My Giant": Now each of us may have our own "Giant"; as I explained earlier, I think race/ethnicity was the predominant issue in my story.

Students come to our campus today with many more assets than deficits, but sometimes, in their toolboxes or backpacks, there is a "giant" that can impede their ability to perform. Upon reflection, and with the experience of nearly 38 years as a dean, I could interpret that Giant to represent different things/characters for different people: shame; insecurity; doubt; disdain; lack of self-confidence — all leading to the persistence of self-defeating behaviors. As Professor Claude Steele has written, it can be evidenced in stereotype threat that often leads to underperformance in college students. It has led to my interest in campus climate, and in making the structural changes necessary for campus cultures to become more accommodating and inclusive. It has also led to my interest in the professional development of my colleagues, many of whom have been less aware than, and

less cosmopolitan than, their students. It has also deepened my commitment to the low-income but high-achieving students who add “leaven to the loaf” on most of our college campuses.

Sympathy/Empathy/Interpathy: I believe that our work requires us to understand the experience of others.

Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch, in their book *The Shaping of Things to Come*, suggest that in order for meaningful relationships to deepen between the Christian and non-Christian communities, we must be intentional in living together amidst diversity. They quote the poet Lao Tsu:

Go to the people,
Live with them,
Learn from them,
Love them.
Start with what they know,
Build with what they have,
But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task
Accomplished,
The people will say,
We have done it ourselves.

Closing thoughts (because I acknowledge the diversity of this audience, I have advice for everyone!):

- Deans and faculty: Recognize that everyone comes to college with assets and social, cultural and intellectual capital.
- Students: You are here: you deserve to be here.
- You have undeserved blessings. Be grateful.
- Tell your story, and listen to your family stories.
- Identify your gifts and talents, and follow your passions. (Study what you love!)
- Remember your mission.
- Acknowledge your Giant: Diminish him or her, whether tragedies or setbacks, let go! Maintain physical, spiritual and emotional equilibrium (seek mental health services). Acquire financial literacy.
- “Assign yourself” — be disciplined.
- Leave your comfort zone — make connections with people different from yourself (don’t allow yourself to become “culturally encapsulated”).
- Get your passport; travel!
- Select your fellow travelers wisely.
- Be comfortable in your own skin; but develop a “thick skin” to handle criticism or challenges.
- Be a risk taker.
- Give forward.
- Believe in miracles!
- Enjoy your life — have fun!

In acknowledgment of Black History Month, Janet ended her remarks by reading another poem, “For My People,” by acclaimed essayist, poet and novelist Margaret Walker — who

*was the mother of her Western classmate, **Marion Alexander**. Written in 1942, the poem won the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. We regret that space limitations keep us from printing it and urge readers to seek it out online or in their public libraries. Or request it from us.*

While looking through old boxes as she was planning her speech, Janet — an English/creative writing major at Western — just happened upon her poem. It had been printed in the January 1965 issue of our literary magazine, Scope. She read it at the beginning of her address.

My Giant Goes With Me

Ah yes, it was after Italy
After the placid solitude of Keats and Shelley
After the sailors and the bustling squares
After the spaghetti and turkey meatballs;

After *Roma* and *Paolo* and the screeching car
And the place where the water shot forth from the fountain
And the pink flowers dripped from the trees
And twentieth century Romans chased vino with coffee—
After an endless but tireless night
Gave way to a bright burst of morning.

I had lost myself for a day—
The Roman Way seemed inches below my feet
I was a queen, on a potent pink carpet.
The giant was but a shadow,
Pink—
Like all the rest of the world.

Then, after Italy, the perfume wore off.
The giant, no longer pink,
Instead dark and encompassing and confining—
Was as attendant and as obvious as ever.

There were other places:
Some more tranquil, some more bustling,
Some devastatingly alive amidst ruins of countless generations.
But everywhere my giant was there among others
To be picked through
And looked over
And chosen from
Like the multicolored flowers of the field
Or the many shades of dresses on a rack.

The choice again was relative—
Although tastes differed, taste again was there.
And, since Italy,
So does my giant go.

© Janet Smith January 1965

Living and Learning in Over-the-Rhine

*In 2006, Miami's Center for Community Engagement introduced its Over-the-Rhine Residency Program. Participating juniors and seniors spend the fall semester living in Cincinnati's historic, inner-city Over-the-Rhine community, attending full-credit classes there, and — most important, they will tell you — involving themselves in the lives of their Over-the-Rhine neighbors, many of them dealing with the effects of poverty and crime. The program — brainchild of MU architecture professor Tom Dutton — has evolved from his Design/Build Studio, which, since 1996, has allowed architecture and interior design students to commute to Over-the-Rhine. There, collaborating with local organizations, they were able to gain practical experience through design/build projects as well as participate in community outreach. That led to establishing the center, located at Buddy's Place (named after longtime OTR homeless advocate Buddy Gray), and opening the program to non-architecture students, who would focus primarily on service. For more about the Center for Community Engagement, visit the website: www.fna.muohio.edu/cce. Not surprisingly — being already familiar with the benefits of a living-learning environment — three Western Program juniors were among the 2007 group of 13 who took up temporary residency in Over-the-Rhine. Now all three have developed their Senior Projects from that experience. We have invited interdisciplinary studies majors **Keri Agriesti**, **Eva D'Intino**, and **Marisa Rendina** to share how the experience led to their project goals. They will make their presentations at this year's **Senior Project Conference — open to the public — April 28-30**.*

Keri Nicole Agriesti, from Bucyrus and Columbus, Ohio, is minoring in geography. Professors Chris Myers, Thomas Dutton and Susan Paulson are advising her on her project: *Conscientização: critical consciousness raising/Engagement: learning in which student is active agent (Together you get people pursuing learning to transform their lives and societies). Keri spent spring break (2009) with a geography class in Dominica.*



Keri

What I learned in Over-the-Rhine concerning homelessness, underemployment, and political oppression allowed me to walk with the people in the neighborhood and realize the need for advocacy for the voice that is either unheard or ignored. I became personally engaged in the social issues of urban life and became an active citizen in the Over-the-Rhine People's Movement and community. I interacted with developers, attended city meetings, interviewed residents, helped write grants, and worked for equitable development. I have come to understand that the challenge in sustainable development, environmental justice, and socio-economic issues is not just about changing the way we manage resources in immediate environments (farms, tropical forests, urban neighborhoods), but also about changing larger social, economical, political systems. A powerful way to change these is through education and community engagement.

My experience in Over-the-Rhine taught me how to see through a three-dimensional lens. In order to see and act differently, I had to look beyond what was in front of my face. No, I did not figure out the solution to life in Over-the-Rhine, but I did find places less romantic than college life. All ex-

periences have their own biases, self-deceptions, and urban myths. However, most importantly, they have extremely valuable insights coming out of direct observation and firsthand experience — essential to a college curriculum.

The goal of my senior project is to make a comparative analysis of my experiences in engaged learning, draw from scholarship, and contribute insights to program design. I think that in order to continue opening the door, students need a curriculum that will guide them to see beyond the 2D elements that society throws at them, allowing them to make their own choices and care about a broader community. Education and community engagement makes stronger communities, promotes efficient lifestyles, and teaches mutual responsibility. It is about learning to talk and listen about the future.

While living in Over-the-Rhine, I became friends with neighborhood resident and former homeless person Mike Rogers. Mike was able to change his life through personal ambition and support from the homeless shelter. Now, he owns his own coffee shop. His passion for life influenced my thoughts about my future. In an interview about his life, goals, and philosophies, he said, "At the end of the day, it doesn't matter — yellow, white, or candy striped, we are all human." His words showed me how people, with support from an advocate community, can change their lives.

— Keri Agriesti

The new Western Program's announced focus — "the history and practice of activism: the ideas, individual actions, and collective efforts that have inspired movements for change within local, national, and global contexts" — will undoubtedly be a source for future volunteers. For more about the program, see page 33.



Keri (left) and Jocelyn Schmidt (MU '08), from the architecture studio, plying their carpentry skills. Their semester-long project was completing the remodel of a townhouse for a grandmother and her five grandchildren.

Eva D'Intino is from Wooster, Ohio. Her declared minor is religion, and she is working with professors Muriel Blaisdell and Mary Jean Corbett on a mentoring program for seventh grade girls at Rothenberg Elementary School in Over-the-Rhine. Her project proposal earned her a Carter Entrepreneur Grant (one of three awarded in Ohio by the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation to outstanding student leaders).



Eva

Outside of joining the Western College Program, my decision to participate in the Over-the-Rhine residency program was the most influential and life-changing experience during my four years at Miami. I went into the program knowing little about it; I just wanted out of Oxford. What I emerged with five months later was a renewed sense of purpose, a heightened social consciousness, many amazing experiences and friendships that are unparalleled.

I was able to volunteer at the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center as an intern for the duration of my experience. I worked on various issues pertaining to immigration rights, anti-death penalty measures, and local peace initiatives. It was here that I realized people really could make a career out of what they are passionate about.

I was also an assistant in the preschool classroom of the Peaslee Child Development Center. The teacher was a graduate of Miami and the residency program, so working with her was a special experience. I saw firsthand the inequities — from unstable family lives, poor nutrition, to behavioral problems — that children are faced with when living in low-income, urban environments. However, coming to the classroom was the highlight of my days, because I knew I would

be greeted with a chorus of “Hi Miss Eva!” as soon as I walked in. Working in the classroom inspired me to learn more about urban teaching. I spent the summer as an intern at a school for children with disabilities in Kingston, Jamaica, and this only solidified my passion.

As I began developing my senior project, I knew it had to pertain to Over-the-Rhine. I began reaching out to various community partners: Bonnie Neumeier, the golden goddess of activists, as always, pointed me in the right direction. I wanted a program that was based on the needs of the community, not my own agenda. She got me in contact with a teacher at Rothenberg Preparatory Academy who was looking for a mentoring opportunity for her middle school female students. Things finally began to fall into place.

After assistance from the Office of Community Engagement and Service (in particular Western alumna Hailee Gibbons), Mary Jean Corbett [WCP interim director] and Bill Newell [WCP professor], I was able to come up with a proposal that won a Carter Entrepreneur Grant. With the help of this grant, I am setting up a student-designed after-school program focusing on discovering identity through writing and other creative mediums. My research focuses on the relationship between after-school programs and education reform and their role in closing the achievement gap. I believe the same elements that make an after-school program successful, such as student input and culturally relevant curriculum design, can be applied to school reform, helping to close the achievement gap.

As a result of my amazing experiences through the residency program and my senior project, I knew that I wanted to continue to work toward educational equity. I will be teaching elementary school with Teach for America in San Fran-



Getting the lay of the land: Residency Program director Tom Dutton chats with (from left) Marisa, Eva and Deirdre Gorman (MU '09) at a Peaslee cookout, the spring before they moved in.

cisco this fall and I am looking forward to putting theory in to practice. As I prepare for the move across the country, these enriching and humbling experiences are the most important things I am taking with me.

— Eva D’Intino



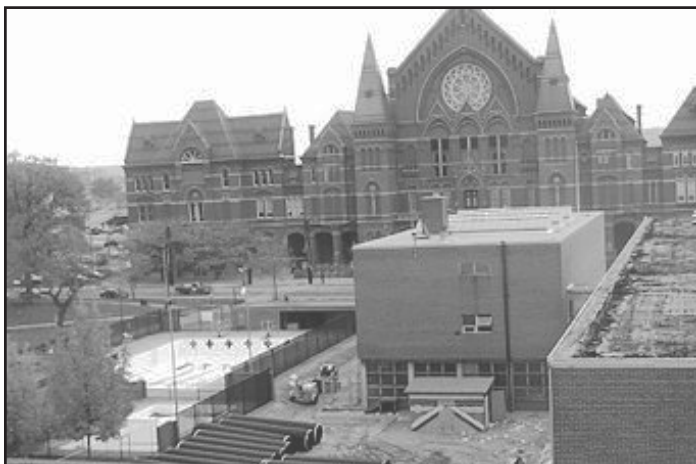
Marisa

Marisa Rendina’s home is Chesterland, Ohio, a small town north of Cleveland. Along with her major in interdisciplinary studies, she is focusing on architecture/urban design and art education. “There’s a little bit of urban sociology in there as well,” she says. Tom Dutton, architecture professor and director of the OTR program,

is advising her on her project: Creating Art/Architecture for Social Change in Inner Cities — Specifically Over-the-Rhine. Marisa has no definite plans after graduation, but has her sights set on working for an art museum in New York City.

I remember when I first ventured to Over-the-Rhine during my freshman year at Miami — just passing through with a friend. I saw people congregating outside of the Kroger, rap music blaring from cars with flashy paint jobs and huge silver rims, and people yelling from across the street. I remember thinking to myself that I would never be back. This thought is so ironic to me because the next year through the Wilks Scholars program I started volunteering there, and now Over-the-Rhine has become such a huge part of my life. Almost four years later, I found the street with the most life is the street that I once feared driving through.

Before I moved there I thought I knew what the world was like, but now I realize how much I didn’t know. Growing up in an area that had little to no diversity and attending



Cincinnati’s historic Music Hall overlooks Washington Park. The residency students were actively involved in the community’s efforts to prevent demolition of the pool (left foreground) and elementary school. The pool was saved!



Marisa with two of her budding artists from the Children’s Creative Corner

a university much like the town I was raised in, I never knew what it was like to be the only white girl walking down the street. When I decided to apply for the residency program, I wanted a program that would challenge me in more ways than just academically. I had looked up the neighborhood on the Internet and of course got the media’s standard view that the area was infused with drugs and crime. I didn’t read into these stories much because I had been there and never felt threatened. Even when I lived there, I didn’t pay attention to the news stories and told my parents not to either. I think they grew a lot along with me as I went through the program.

My experience in Over-the-Rhine led me to my senior project idea because I wanted to stay connected to the community after I moved back to Oxford. Truthfully, I never wanted to come back, but I had to finish out my last year and a-half. I continued to volunteer there every week because I felt it was important to sustain the connections I had made to a place that was so important to me.

I had been working on a year-long project at Peaslee Neighborhood Center, redesigning the lobby interior. I made the plan in Tom Dutton’s ARC 427 class, which I took while I was living there, and next semester finished the space as my final for the Wilks project. During that second semester, I also volunteered at Children’s Creative Corner, the art group for children living in OTR, created by staff members from Over-the-Rhine Community Housing because there are no art classes being taught at the public school.

So when it came time to think about where I wanted to devote my time for my creative project, the answer was easy. The goal of my project is to examine how art can influence social change in inner cities. I continue to go to OTR every Monday and Thursday to teach art — a passion of mine that I will continue after my thesis is finished.

— Marisa Rendina

Our Class Notes — The Ties That Bind . . .

'24

WESTERN

Helen Wilson Petscher died in March 2008, at the age of 104. Her daughter Phee El-



Helen Wilson Petscher

linghausen wrote that after her mother's eyesight failed, she enjoyed having parts of the *Bulletin* read to her. A lifelong music educator in Aurora, Indiana, Helen had a remarkable education for a woman of her time.

She graduated from Aurora High School at 16, having attended Cincinnati Conservatory of Music as a day student at the same time; from Western in 1924 with a B.A. in music, English and French; from CCM in 1926 with a degree in public school music; and from Northwestern University in 1939 with an M.S. in music.

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'30

WESTERN

Elsie Nussman Steiner called the office to let her friends know that she is doing fine in her St. Louis retirement home apartment — except for some vision and hearing problems — and gets around in her wheelchair and remembers her time at Western with great joy. She was looking forward to celebrating her 100th birthday, March 25th.

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'32

WESTERN

It is very frustrating to me to be unable to travel (especially to our Reunions, which I always enjoyed). I was happy to see **Betty**

Brown Lembright's picture when she came to our 74th.

I was forced to slow down quite a bit this year after breaking my femur (November 2007). I had a long rehab, but am back into all my activities in church and at the retirement home, although I'm not as mobile as I was. I am very happy here at the Canton Regency and near my family. It was hard to give up my car, but at 97 I knew it was for the best. My best wishes to all of you and I'd love to hear from you more often.

This year I received one blue card from **Mildred Hurdle Webb**: "Everything for me is still moving along at a normal rate. That fact in itself is a wonderful thing. I give thanks for it every day. Wish I could say the same for my family up in Ohio and in Massachusetts. As of now, everything is serene health-wise. Hope it stays that way for a long time. One unpleasant fact that affects us all is the state of the economy. For retirees, in particular, this is upsetting news. We '32ers graduated from high school while the economy was roaring and then were knocked almost out in our early college years. But we are still around! Also, I'm still playing the piano. Back in early February (2008), we had a record-breaking tornado go through, but it missed Cherokee Village. I saw lightning — no damage."

Mary "Duffy" Duffield Boehme '32
4515 22nd St. NW, Apt. 318
Canton, OH 44708

'34

WESTERN

Celebrating 75 years!

Dr. Philip Hillen has written the office to let us know that his mother, **Marion Conner Hillen**, has celebrated her 96th birthday, is in good health and living in a Charlotte, North Carolina, retirement center.

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'36

WESTERN

Marty McCuaig Heath has become friends with **Jane Murphy Wall '42** at Evergreen, her senior living facility in Cincinnati, and is

on the same hall as **Ann Niehaus Tobias '50** and her dog, Zack. Marty still sees best friend **Madge Van Buskirk**, who still volunteers at the Cincinnati Zoo and goes to most Cincinnati Reds home games. She writes that she is no longer in contact with any other classmates.

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'38

WESTERN

Greetings, Survivors. Well, we do feel like that sometimes, don't we! Didn't hear from any of you this time, called a few. I was the only one from our class at the June Reunion. Hope you can make it, if only for the luncheon on Saturday, June 20, 2009.

Dorothy McKorkle Moran is still at home with her husband. He is in a wheelchair after a fall, but quite active. They have help two hours a day. Dorothy heads a book club (good for you!) which includes some retired faculty members from Bowling Green University.

I was surprised to find that **Mariana Reed** was once a WAC, as were other '38ers now gone: **Rosemary Locke**, **Marge Pope** and **Betty Rae Cartwright**. (My husband was WAC chaplain in the '60s at Ft. McClellan, Alabama.) Mariana had tours in England and in Paris. She is now a volunteer at her retirement community.

Dorothy Kercher Knoop, who lives at Dorothy Love Retirement Community, Sidney, Ohio, recently had a week's visit from daughter Elizabeth, who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dorothy enjoys reading (and it's not big print).

I trust you all enjoyed the newsy fall *Bulletin*. Am sure you were saddened as I was to find that **Elizabeth Ann Shipley Bales**, **Virginia Ruth Charles** and **Emily Held** passed away in 2008.

I am still enjoying Cape May Village in Wilmington, Ohio. Don't get around much anymore but dote on four darling (of course) great-grandchildren. Love to you all ...

Jane Noble Miller '38
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'40 WESTERN

Dru Zearley Clingman '57 notified the office of the death in February of her aunt,



Regina Meed Burt

Regina Meed Burt, long-time resident of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. One of a devoted family of alumnae, Regina was the sister of **Helen Meed Zearley '29**, **Mildred Meed Hatfield '32** and **Marjory Meed Burt '40**. Dru's twin sister, **Paula Zearley Armstrong '57**, is also a Western grad.

From Annapolis, Maryland, **Dorothy Lee Baker Blackwood** writes, "I'm still in my home with only one dog with me. For my 90th birthday, the family rented a house on the beach in Charleston, South Carolina, for a reunion of all my daughters plus my sister. I hear from **Bea Burkholder Sundstrom** and **Randy Wilson Colby '39**."

From Liverpool, New York, **Janet Graham King**: "Now that I have to depend on my children to get me out, I try to do as much as I can for my church. I send cards and messages regularly to those who are ill at home, in a nursing home, or have had a death in the family. I still belong to a garden club, which collects food bags for the needy."

From Weston, Massachusetts, **Jeanne Ott Saunders**: "Great fun phoning Ruth. I am still very much here in Norman's solar heated house (at least partially). Good news! We have a fourth generation — 1 year old January 29, 2009. One of our third generation achieved a doctorate degree at Edinborough University in December."

From Palo Alto, California, **Margaret Gravett Giusti** writes, "We celebrated our 65th anniversary last June. Happy to say we are both in pretty good health. We have 13 great-grandchildren. They live everywhere! I hear from **Peggy Robinson Kirk** and **Peg Wood Singley** at Christmas."

Where are the rest of you?

I spent three months this past summer with a metatarsal fracture in my left foot. From October 30 to December 5, I celebrated my 90th November birthday with small family gatherings. On December 24 at 11 p.m., I fell on my face on concrete — no broken bones or glasses — only a nasal fracture and a black and blue face for many days. This year could have been better.

Ruth Bertsch Stilwell '40
8505 Woodfield Crossing Blvd., #201
Indianapolis, IN 46240

'42 WESTERN

Today is January 8. Three blue postcards, six letters and two photos have arrived in time for me to meet the January 19 deadline for the spring *Bulletin*, so here goes.

Barbara Burke Chesman's letter was first. Barb had quite a year of travel — to Wisconsin and Michigan, then to Barcelona, where she boarded a ship that stopped at Marseilles, Genoa, Naples, Palermo, Tunis and Mallorca. A strike by Air France pilots delayed her return to the U.S.

One can only describe **Ethel Burnham Meece's** letter as evidence of a life fully and happily lived. Eth and husband Ely "have had no yen for foreign ports. Instead, we went more often and stayed longer by the sea." Carmel's wonderful ocean walk, which



Ethel and Ely on Carmel's beach

stretches two or three miles along the shore inspired the photo Eth enclosed. "Most of our days and nights are spent right here in Palo Alto. Life at Channing House reminds me of Peabody Hall. I am floor representative. In house, we attend lectures, book reviews, etc." Eth and Ely have given book reviews to residents and she has repeated her reviews for the small Radcliffe-Harvard group to which she belongs.

Ora Jane Craig Tipton has not failed to write a blue card message each time one is requested. Ora Jane has a new grandson born in April. She and I sat next to one another at the Reunion luncheon on campus last June — lots of chatter about the old days at Western.

Both a Christmas note and a blue card came from **Mildred Orr Palmer**. Midge and Dick celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary November 26. She wrote, "Miami University has caught on that we are both alums and from them we receive a Valentine greeting each year." They spent Christmas with

their daughter and family in Austin, Texas, and looked forward to January-March when they will be in Orange Beach, Alabama — where 50 miles of white sand beach on the Gulf of Mexico and "snowbird" friends from the Midwest await them.



Midge and Dick Palmer

Annabelle Johnson Garetz is "willing to bet that I'm the only alum from the class of '42 with no e-mail address. Being a mechanical dunce, I have never learned to use a computer. Besides, I have children and grandchildren who view computers as a native language and they come to my rescue when I need it." Because of health problems, Annabelle is now living with her older daughter. Everything is fine, but she does miss the ocean view home where she lived for 36 years.

Kathryn Severin Behm and daughter Carol had an interesting Thanksgiving. They stayed one night in Louisville and for the first time saw the rapids of the Ohio River. Then they met Kay's son, Mike, and his family in Nashville, where they toured several plantations, the Parthenon, and the Hermitage. After so much walking, Kay resorted to a golf cart for transportation. She is scheduled for knee surgery January 22. When Kay and I get on the phone together, the minutes fly!

I can always count on a long letter from **Bernarda Danford Rice**. She had many visits this past year from friends and family and passed up the invitation to attend a wedding in the Dominican Republic because "it's a real chore to get my pills organized enough to pass the scrutiny of airport security." At a family Thanksgiving gathering, "19 people were seated at the festive board, ranging in age from 88 (guess who!) to a youngster in a high chair. In relating details of the event I had a slip of the tongue and referred to 'a child in a wheelchair'! I guess that was because those words are heard so frequently around here that they just slipped out." Bernarda ended her letter by saying that now the intense excitement of the presidential election has diminished, "it's time to hope and pray that the new administration can work a miracle and bring about a healthier, stronger, more respected U.S.A."

In her usual merry fashion, **Marion Constable** wrote of a very busy social agenda at the retirement center where she lives in Columbus, New Jersey. As I read Marion's letter, I thought about all the naps I would have to miss if I were to take part in the activities and parties which residents there

ALL classes come and celebrate WCAA's 35th at Reunion '09 ... June 19-21!

sponsor. On a visit to San Jose in September, she enjoyed a sail on San Francisco Bay and included in her letter this fascinating tidbit: "The dolphins and pelicans always shouted at the sailors if they come close to the buoys." 2008's final adventure for Marion was a four-day senior mystery tour! Shawnee, Kansas, would seem pretty dull to Marion, I fear.

As usual, the '42 contribution to the WCAA *Bulletin* ends with a few words from the Class Rep — namely me. In spite of all the stupidities, violence, hatreds and distress of the past year, my life has been OK. No physical, emotional, or financial crises. My brother Chuck married in April, a lovely lady. They have known one another since being neighbors in Detroit over 50 years ago. In October, my daughters Marianne and Laura and I visited Chuck and Jane in their new home in Bay City, Michigan. In mid-August, Marianne, grandson Charles and I were in Boise for a few days. We stayed in an elegant, over-decorated B&B. By finally getting to Idaho, I fulfilled a long-time, silly goal — now I've been in all 50 states. That fact just might make a memorable epitaph.

To all on the '42 class roster who did not or could not respond to the blue card request, you will have another chance in 2010, so for auld lang syne, let's hear from you then.

Bea Low Notley '42
5807 Park Circle
Shawnee, KS 66216
913-248-0678



Celebrating 65 years!

Considering that so many names are now crossed out on my Christmas card list, we did pretty well with the blue cards. In fact, one of the joys of being the Class Rep for the *Bulletin* is that I get to hear from you once in a while. And sometimes, you get to hear from somebody who has been out of touch for years. I was, therefore, delighted to hear from **Bernice "Skee" Gering Kelly**, who roomed with **Ellie Collingwood Prescott**. I suspect it was Ellie, who called me a year or so ago asking if I had a current address for her, that prompted her blue card. Ellie found her in Salisbury, Maryland. She writes that she married twice, has three children, and lives in a retirement community. Welcome back, Skee.

'Twas also a surprise to hear from **Helen Bradfield Friedli**. She lost her husband a

few years ago, but like most of us keeps busy with church activities, bridge, reading, and enjoying visits from the children and grands scattered in Texas, Georgia, and Michigan. And, like the rest of us, she says her arthritis prevents her from traveling these days. I know the drill. ... We have wonderful memories of world travel and sometimes yearn to be off again.

And speaking of world travel, **Ellen Westerman Brashares** would be busy visiting her family — which is spread far and wide from Africa, Nepal, Europe, Peru, to Botswana, and a new great-grandson born in New Zealand — if it weren't for a heart attack and rehab a couple of years ago. And talk about positive thinking, she says she's excited to be alive in these changing times while she continues her volunteer work at her church.

A "fabulous church choir" in Naperville, Illinois (Chicago suburb), is where you'll find **Mary Huber Davis** these days. Mary moved there a year or so ago to be near her son's family. She has four great-grandchildren scattered around in Detroit and Indiana.

Phyl Drew Beauchamp keeps up the tradition of those bridge games in the smoker, playing bridge several times a week. Those days in the smoker didn't do a thing for me in providing a lifelong love of bridge.

Talk about relatives! **Franny Sutherland Larsen** and husband Bob have been tracing their roots with aunts, uncles, and cousins in Scotland and next July will join the largest gathering of the Sutherland Clan. Next on their list may be Australia, where her two granddaughters live and which is home to other cousins.

Obviously, **Jean Bass Tinsley** is in the best shape of us all. She still lives in Dalton, Georgia, and keeps fit swimming — she swam in the Senior Olympics and won three gold medals! Go Jean! Her other passions are quilting and visiting her children around the country.

Sad news came from Carol, the daughter of **Betty Lloyd Mays Robertson**, in Dayton, Ohio. She returned my Christmas card with news that Betty had died in July of 2008. Betty's 2007 Christmas card told of her poor health due to congestive heart failure, and subsequently cancer of the esophagus. The fact that she was losing her sight and could not read, knit, or watch TV made life pretty miserable. Our hearts go out to her family.

And, I think I reported last year that I'd had word that **Jean Boyd Cable** had died shortly before Christmas. Her husband and children had been watching her advance into the various stages of Alzheimer's. But the good

news is, that her husband Dave has set up a memorial scholarship with the college and invites any and all donations to the fund, which will provide money for a foreign student to study on the Western campus, or a Western student to travel overseas for study. I told him I thought it was a fitting memorial since Western has always been a leader in attracting foreign students and studies. I'm sure you can get more information from the Alumnae Office.

Can you believe it has been more than 60 years since we left Western? No wonder we have extended families and are losing our friends and fellow graduates. I continue to live in my own home (probably until I can't drive anymore) and serve on boards and committees if they'll have me. I have just completed six holiday concerts and found it really fun to sing with a women's chorus, which I haven't done since I left Western. This year I have finally kind of settled into a normal kind of year without the surgeries and recuperations of the past few years. As a part of my Swedish heritage through Jim's family, I entertained in my home several members who came to attend the Swedish Festival. We had what we called a mini-reunion. And, had several other folks stop by last summer. It was a real treat and something I can do because I live in my own home.

I now have a list of class members who are still around, so call me if you need addresses and I'll pass them on to you. This getting old ain't fun, but it is blessed with the urge to renew old friendships and family ties.

Nancy Meyer Elofson '44
81 Gordon St.
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-665-5772



Ann Winger Tuttle and her husband, Max, had a very special April 3, 2008, when they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Their daughter, Cynthia, orchestrated a gala luncheon party with a group of friends to help with the event. A festive cake was made by Cynthia. Many special mementos were received by everyone including a CD with 1948 Hit Parade selections (Glenn Miller, the Dorsey Brothers, Vaughn Monroe). The day following Ann's birthday in July, she entered the hospital in Plano, Cynthia's home town, for open heart surgery. Surgery involved more than one bypass and a repaired mitral valve. Recuperation was with Cynthia where she received the best of care.

A sad and drastic change for **Dorothy Warren Rinaldo**, whose her husband, Peter, died on May 2, 2008. It was not unexpected because he had suffered a debilitating disease for over four years. They were married for over 61. Fortunately, Dorothy has a wonderful family. The children resemble their father and over the years have been devoted to both Dorothy and Peter, Dorothy is thankful for an unusually happy marriage to an extraordinary man, three splendid children, fine grandchildren, fine children-in-laws, family and friends. During the summer, Dorothy traveled far and wide to visit family members.

Betty Lee Maddox Daniels writes that they do not have much excitement in their lives. She and Charles have six grandsons from age 25 to 32 and no marriages in sight. Their oldest granddaughter attends Wright State in Ohio on a soccer scholarship. Betty Lee no longer drives at night so she had to give up many programs and events at nearby Northern Kentucky University. She now attends matinees. She continues her local history research and writing for local publications. During the year, she and Charles had a lovely trip to a resort in Arkansas for a wedding. She wishes good health to all.

Betty Lee and I took a great Elderhostel trip to Charleston, South Carolina. We had many interesting lectures from either the university staff or business people in town. California is in a drought and Santa Barbara has had two fires to show for it. In July, the fire was contained to the back country; in November and in another area, over 200 homes burned. Sad! It's amazing to see the number of fire engines that come from miles around to help fight the fire, and how fast a village can be set up by the Red Cross and others to accommodate the firefighters who are there to help. Response was scarce this year; My hope is for all of my former classmates to be in good health, and you can look forward to many good years.



At her Peabody Retirement Community, North Manchester, IN, Nancy Myers (left) enjoyed an impromptu visit with Nancy Ryan Rietz '52, who was there for a relative's 100th birthday. They had fun talking about Western.

Mary Ellen "Mel" Leckie McCoy worked hard in the Obama campaign and she claims the campaign and election night were the high points of her life. She says, "Can you believe that this has happened in our lifetime?" Mel's small village of Sierra Madre has every access to shops, markets, doctors, community activities so she doesn't go far. She volunteers at the library book sales where she buys more books than other shoppers. She's out of bookcase space so she has a library in the trunk of her car. Mel recommends *Shock Doctrine* by Naomi Klein.

And another politically active class member, **Sophie Ann Relson Salley**, informed the office that she had been elected Elector at Large in the state of Virginia and on December 15 would meet with 12 other electors at the General Assembly to sign papers to the fact that Obama won in Virginia.



Elector at Large:
Sophie Relson
Salley

Dorcas Robson '46
29 La Cumbre Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93105



This is the coldest day of the year (0 degrees) here in Michigan, so I thought that, perhaps, it would be a good day to start writing about us '48ers. I can tell by the blue cards that our numbers are getting smaller or else fewer want to write about their time spent.

Jackie Smith Greenhoe writes of a new life she will be living in an apartment in a senior independent living facility. Due to many falls, Jackie thought it was the right time for the move, although it was difficult to down-size and to leave things that she was emotionally attached to. People will be there to help her and her meals will be served in a nice dining room — although she does have a nice kitchen for her use. She is sure this change will be a good one for her.

Mary Anne Hillman Thornton is another in the class who has just moved to a retirement community. She has a nice villa with an inside swimming pool, which was an attraction. She also says that it was hard to leave her home of 30 years. But church work, woman's club, book club and other activities keep her busy. Her daughter and family live nearby, and her son and wife live

east of Dallas. Their family includes three dogs, six cats and two horses!

A back operation has kept **Ruth Arnold Males** from any lengthy travels, but she is just fine now. She says that she welcomes any visiting travelers. Ruth keeps busy with many volunteer groups at the library, mobile meals and shelters for the homeless. She is enjoying having her son with her again.

A super family photo came with **Jeraldine Smith Rector's** Christmas card. There are 14 family members and all were together to celebrate Jerry and Tom's 60th wedding anniversary at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, Illinois. Tom's eyes have stabilized and they are active in their church, lecture series and social events and travel. Just a note: **Elizabeth Prescott's** son, Rick, was married in Galena, Illinois. It is a nice little town.

Life in a retirement community is just wonderful for **Margaret McKee Seder** and husband Ed. Maggie was very busy sewing for a church Christmas bazaar. She made mice stuffed with catnip and sold 40 of them. Happy cats. **Ann Creswell Sandin**, who lives just 40 minutes away, came for lunch one day with her daughter. Maggie and Ed seem to keep very busy with Christmas pageants, family and friends. The letter sent to an editor in 1897 by 8-year-old Virginia, asking "Is there really a Santa Claus?" is published each year in the *Free Press* — Maggie says it was read to them each Christmas Eve by her father, Harper McKee.

A long letter and full-page photo came from **Joyce Eddy Plummer**. On June 18, 2008, she lost her husband — our prayers are with you. Then on July 2, a huge beech tree fell on her cottage, leaving little to be salvaged. The rest of the summer was spent getting insurance and permits in order to build another cottage. When Joyce left Michigan, her town of Douglas had recorded 40 inches of snow. Snow came early this year. Through all of this, her family have given her lots of help boxing things up and cataloguing losses. She is back in Texas, enjoying her family and says, "May you keep a song in your heart and on your lips in 2009."

When she looks in the mirror, **Margaret Brauchli Haenni** sees a different person from what she thinks she looks like. Don't we all think that way? Anyway, she and Edi have slowed down, but they are still very busy. Edi has macular degeneration but with the use of an enlargement screen keeps up on the latest books, papers, etc. They still go up to Pontre and hike back and forth to the hotel there. In April, they came to the U.S. and found it hard to leave. In June, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. In July, they celebrated Edi's 87th birthday. September, it was France to visit relatives, then visits from her brother, her son and family, plus several weddings and parties.



Joycel Eddy Plummer '48, enjoying lots of family support

The sad news that we lost these members of our class was reported in the fall *Bulletin*: **Jeanne Steward Ballard** (April 2006), **Joan Cleveland Latta** (July 2007), **Norma Jean Corey Postel** (September 2004), **Dolores Vogt Suess** (August 2003) and **Lois Ann Piepho White** (June 2008). And the WCAA office learned belatedly that **Marjorie Stewart Bachman** had passed away in April of 1996. Let us keep them all in our hearts and prayers.

Jane Clapp Towne writes that her husband, Roy, passed away in August after open heart surgery. She is doing well and helping with services as a deacon in the Episcopal church. She is busy with her study groups, family and friends; puzzling over where to put her money, considering the hitches in the economy; and unhappy with the election, but will see what the change brings. Jane is thankful for her marriage of 55 years, good memories, her four children, and the love of God.

Helen Grinnell always sends a beautiful picture of the mountains near her. She has had a busy business year and tending her flowers and garden takes up much of her time. She is well and happy and has lived in Colorado for many years now.

Cynthia Adams Leslie lives right in Oxford and really enjoys her life there. She says that there is always something to do if one wants to be busy. We had hoped to see Cy and her husband, Conrad, when we were there in June, but they had taken their grandson and his friend with them on a great trip. That is most important ... Cy can go to Western each day if she wants to!

In February, **Judy Stuchell Mellicker** will be moving into a retirement complex near her in Bella Vista. She says that it is time for no work and just fun! Her children are very happy with her plans. Judy is just fine with her life.

I see **Ellen Siddall Zimmermann** quite often, and she is busy updating her bathrooms

in the house she has lived in since about 1955, I think. Some of her children live near her and they check in often. Ellen still has her house on Lake Erie in Canada. She and her family still spend time there in the summer. They have a lovely vegetable garden there, plus lots of flowers. Ellen had our college potluck two weeks ago but sad to say there were only four of us now. We used to be 10 to 12 people.

In June, Ellen, **Marge Hoeses Kalkoske** and I drove down to Western for the big Reunion. I was so impressed at the way the campus and buildings were so well kept. Everything looked new and refurbished. The programs and banquets were great and well presented. It made us all feel good to think that Western is still a beautiful campus and cared for. With **Nancy McKinney Fleetwood**, we were four from the class of 1948. Do wish more could have been there.

As for me, I have had a good year. No big trips, just a few small ones. First to Providence, Rhode Island, to see my granddaughter graduate from Brown U., then down to Oxford in June. In July, seven of us went to Stratford, Ontario, to see some plays — that was fun. I'm busy with altar guild work, book club, knitting for the sick, volunteer work, swimming and just taking in movies and dinner with friends. Also, some housework — it does get a little fuzzy around here with cat fur.

That's about it. I keep hoping I have enough money to get to assisted living if need be — otherwise, I'm just fine. My dad was 94 years old when he died, so I expect to have a long life too. I still want to travel some more. Take care, all!

Alice Crabb Brandon '48
2874 Pine Hill
Troy, MI 48098



The daily news replays 1929 as we Fiftians are turning 80. We're tempted to say, "This is where we came in." But those blue Western news cards show we aren't yet ready to tiptoe out of the scene. Classmates from coast to coast report a variety of doings.

Louise Wilson Braley helped carry the WCAA banner in the alumnae parade at Reunion last June, and your scribe repre-

sented the Class of 1950 at the Dayton Alumnae Club's annual Christmas luncheon. There, we had a chance to meet and talk with Dr. Mary Jean Corbett, recently appointed interim director of the Western Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, being developed in the Miami's College of Arts and Science. A professor of English, she is a Smith graduate who joined the Miami faculty in 1989. Latest in her extensive list of published works on Victorian literature and women's writing is *Family Likeness: Sex, Marriage, and Incest from Jane Austen to Virginia Woolf*. (For more, see last fall's *Bulletin*, p. 48.)

In a phone chat in January, **Louise Wilson Braley**, wintering with husband Bill in Seminole, Florida, told of staging a major family reunion in the St. Petersburg area. "All of our kids and their families" came from across the continent, "overlapping for four or five days. Good thing we can use the house next door!" *Editor's note: As we went to press, we received the sad news of Bill Braley's death on April 5. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Lou and their family.)*



Lunch bunch (from left): Lou Wilson Braley '50, Jane Lloyd Cantoni '50, Betty Huttenbauer Heldman '49, Ann Niehaus Tobias '50

Jane Lloyd Cantoni, Lebanon, Ohio, sent this lively photo of Fiftians, etc. taken on a luncheon outing together in the Cincinnati area. Jane writes that she and her husband, Bob, still enjoy travel and nearby Miami athletic events. Their daughter Jenny, now retired, is attending the Cincinnati Culinary Institute. "Never thought I'd live to see that," her mother quips.

From Portsmouth, Rhode Island, **Louise Moore Murray** sent me a spirited 80th birthday card saying, "Us old??? What a laugh! We haven't even grown up yet!" She enclosed a magazine article proclaiming, "Eighty Is the New Fifty." That's a better

motto than what I was recently heard to say: "Oh to be 50 again!" Louise, my sophomore roommate, added that she'd also heard from her other Western roommates, **Joan Oswald Hellmich**, Batesville, Indiana; **Carol Hayward Vanderpol**, Plaistow, New Hampshire; and **Nancy Dilloway Booth**, in greater Detroit.

Joanne Mills Reeve, Louisville, Kentucky, writes that she celebrated her 80th with a champagne brunch and fulfilled her lifelong ambition to see Easter Island, with its mysterious monolithic statues gazing out over the vast Pacific.

It's inevitable. We record the loss of several Fiftians in the past year. One blue card brought this news from Hardy Reynolds, Jr., Excelsior, Minnesota: "**Mary Gail [Davidson Reynolds]**, my wife of 57 years, passed away August 17, 2008, at the age of 78." He and their children have our sympathy.

Belatedly, word has reached the Alumnae Office of the death May 2, 2008, of **Ruth DeMartine Hardaway**. Ruth lived in Port Richey, Florida. Our sympathy goes to her son, Jim, and daughter, Barbara.

Also, the Alumnae Office has received word from **Joanne Totorete Corradi '62** of the death of **Carol Cattrell Castle** April 8, 2008.

"My life has completely changed in the past two years," writes **Eleanor Prescott Adams**, Walpole, Massachusetts. "My husband died ... from a severe stroke." This despite appearing to be in excellent health. "You never know what will happen or when. However, since then I have visited many friends and relatives and living gets easier. I have many golfing buddies. ... My three girls are my salvation, as well as my five grandchildren." Among them are one potter, two teachers, a jazz singer, and a geography major who's now engrossed in acting. "Wow!" this grandmother comments.

Donna Hall Mader, Alexandria, Kentucky, may not go on clogging through her 80s, but she is still setting quite a pace. The muscle problem that discourages athleticism isn't keeping her from work for her church, the Kentucky Symphony, genealogical research, and involvement in other civic activities. "Keeps me out of the taverns," she jests.

Edith Wright Leckey, Bradford, Vermont, writes that with continued good health, she and her husband still enjoy the pleasures of the mountains all summer, then wander southward in the fall to Florida visiting friends and family en route. "New Orleans is in the picture." She adds that she's "looking forward to the excitements promised for 2009. Good luck to our leadership."

"Nearly 59 years is a long time!" **Shirley Heitkamp Wilson** writes. That's how long



Travelers Art and Donna Bloom '52

we Fiftians have been out in the big world. Shirley apologizes for not being in touch often, then recounts a married life that has taken her and her family coast-to-coast, from Concord, Massachusetts, to Charlotte, North Carolina; to Ridgewood, New Jersey to Dallas, Texas — "and finally Southern California." After 36-plus years in Northridge (greater LA) they've retired to Menifee near San Diego. "We have four children representing the four major places we've lived," Shirley reports. Four grandchildren live near them.

This year, **Helen Anne Noftsgger Welsh** opted not to travel to Michigan from her winter quarters in Bradenton, Florida, for the holidays. Having two grandsons nearby is compensation for missing the family in Holly, Michigan. The arrival of Chloe in November made her "a great-grandmother a month before my 80th birthday," she writes. "How did we get so old so fast?"

As for your scribe, Bert and I are congratulating ourselves on surviving 14 months of living in the midst of a heavy construction site in our retirement community, Bethany Village. At last, the monster machinery, excavations, scaffolding, mud and mess are becoming a memory, new residents are settling into the adjoining new apartment building, and a new activities building (also adjoining) calls out for us to shake a leg and stretch our brains. We may not be as agile as we used to be. I've been seen to use a cane when my trick back isn't cooperating, and Bert now remembers to take his ears when we go to concerts and restaurants with friends, short courses at the U. of Dayton, and a book club.

Looking toward the future of Miami's Western Program, we ponder what the future holds for it in the drastic financial crunch that has hit the nation and world? Will the losses of endowment, shelving of new building plans, faculty hiring freezes, and other cutbacks that are straining colleges and universities everywhere threaten this cherished hope of Western and Miami students

and alums alike? Stay tuned. (And note my new address.)

[*Editor's note: In the annual report (2007-2008) of The Dayton Foundation, a community charitable organization whose mission is "to strengthen our community through philanthropy and leadership," a flattering profile featured Diane (among others) in acknowledgment of her support of the arts.*]

Diane Heckert Staub '50
6441 Bethany Village Dr., Apt. 316
Centerville, OH 45459
dhaustaub@earthlink.net



Our local weather person says that it is 10 degrees below zero this morning. I will take her word for it, stay inside, and write this newsletter while thinking warm thoughts of my classmates.

Joanne Olson Saffell writes that she and Bob married in 1951 and are still happy after 57 years. They have eight children, five girls and three boys. Five live in the L.A. area (where Bob worked in his career in advertising automobiles), and three more in Northern Michigan, where Joanne and Bob now live. They have 17 grandchildren, ranging from age 5 to 25. Joanne says that she didn't work — eight kids kept her busy enough. I guess so! It's great to hear from you, Joanne.

Art and **Donna Schulz Bloom** say that travel is still a big part of their lives. They have visited kids and grandkids in D.C., Pittsburgh, and Hawaii, plus friends in Japan. Elderhostel trips have taken them to the Black Hills, Cincinnati art museums, and Rockland, Maine. Donna is still performing and teaching piano, honing watercolor skills, and catching up on all the books she never read at Western.

Doris May and **Bob Gilmore** are moving to a suburb of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and will be near one son's family. They will leave behind another son and daughter in Maine, but are looking forward to warmer weather and activities in the retirement village where their new home will be built.

Gloria Wilson Sylvester says that she keeps busy with her ceramics, bridge, and taking care of her house and gardens. Glo says that she plays bridge to keep her mind alert. I play bridge with some of my high school friends, but I'm not sure that our minds are being stimulated. I think we do more eating and talking than card playing and probably use bridge as an excuse to get together. Glo will travel to Florida in

March. She would love to travel to Prague if anyone else would like to go.

B. J. Wright has moved to King-Brouwert House in Burr Ridge, Illinois. Her new address is 6101 County Line Rd., Burr Ridge, IL 60527-8132. She really loves her new place. All of her meals are cooked for her and there are many activities. B. J. volunteers at church, is active in a book club, and does a lot of reading.

Jo DuBois Shafer writes that she and Dick have had another good year. Dick has made a good recovery from his knee replacement surgery last year. No European trips this year, but they did take a two and a-half month cross-country RV trip. They attended both Miami and Western reunions, two magic conventions, and two ship reunions. They took a cruise to Cozumel out of Mobile with some other ship reunion attendees, a nice way to finish a reunion. I really enjoyed visiting with Jo and Dick in Oxford last June. I didn't know that they were planning to come to Reunion, so it was a great surprise to see them in Lower Peabody.

Nancy Ryan Rietz and Bob are still enjoying their vintage car hobby. They attended their 60th high school reunion. Since their graduation year was 1948, they appropriately drove there in their 1948 Ford. What fun! They also drove their Packard to a national meet in Des Moines, Iowa, in June. They were in Arizona in November, spending quality time with their grandsons while their folks took a trip to Europe. Nancy says "Hi" to all.

Betty Sipe Gerber says that the Western "alum contingent" is growing at The Knolls of Oxford. **Barbara "Little John" Johnson Mecklenborg** has joined the ranks, and as Betty says, "She's a bright spot wherever she is. Whatever she's doing!" Betty keeps active in local theater. She was in *Fiddler on The Roof* this fall.

This year the Chinese celebrated the year of the rat. For **Laverne "Scotty" Leech Phillips** and Jim, it was the year of the dog. After their beloved dog Molly, died in April, they found Alvin Joseph Phillips at the SPCA. He is an exuberant 2-year-old terrier-poodle-whatever, 17 lbs. of curly-haired joy. Scotty says that they gave him "Joseph" as a middle name because he has a coat of many colors. The Phillipses have had three celebratory family reunions this year and will become great-grandparents for the first time in March. Their joy knows no bounds.

Ann Anthony Brophy continues to write, water jog, and Tai Chi. She has started watercolor painting. She says that she loves all this nonsense. Hobbies and keeping busy are never nonsense, Ann. They are what keep many of us still functioning. Ann says that she remembers Western days often, always with a smile.

Joan Landenberger Trefts sent a lovely Christmas card with greetings to all. The card had a picture of her lovely home in Shaker Heights, Ohio, taken in 1964, and a current picture of the house. Beautiful. Our best to you, Joanie. It is always good to hear from you.

Barbara Peterson Block wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year. She and Roger took a Caribbean cruise with their daughter, Sharon, and family in April. Their grandkids are growing fast! They have sold their home in Florida, so will only be going there in January this year.

Tudy Allen Gatzert writes, "I am fortunate to live right in the city in Chicago. There are so many choices of wonderful things to do and see. Often I'm able to walk to a lot of them. Of course, playing bridge still enters into my schedule." Tudy had one "big trip" in 2008, an Alaska cruise. Her family's annual get-together at Walloon Lake followed in August. She hopes to see many of us at our 60th reunion in 2012.

Jo Ann Fley sent two items this year. The first is a wonderful series of recollections which all of us in the class of 1952 would enjoy reading. It is, as Jo Ann says too long for the "class news" section of the *Bulletin*. She also sent a short message: "I am writing this three weeks before Christmas, hence I send greetings for the New Year to the class of '52 and the entire Western family. As another year knocks at the door, we have another Reunion to look forward to. For us, the class of '52, we will be observing our 57th year after graduating. Ye Gods! Are we that old? Now historically, we are remembered as 'The Silent Generation,' but then we were anything but quiet. As for me, I'm pretty good for the shape I'm in. (But if I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself.) May the coming year be good to us all."

Her sense of humor is wonderful. As an example, her last e-mail to me was signed "Dr. Flee, Fly, Flo, Flum." I love it!

Catherine Ross Loveland says that Dick is still struggling to retire. I understand his problem. There are just too many interesting things to do. They took a couple of good trips this year, to the Yucatan in January and Cathie to northern Spain in May. They are both still nuts about the dog, and work their schedules around her. Catherine has talked with **Betty Groth Diebold** recently. Betty was visiting her sister in Michigan. The Lovelands are doing some major house remodeling. This will surely keep them even busier for a while. Been there, done that! Not fun, but much appreciated later.

Since some of us have acquired new pets recently, I really must add the **Schropes** to the list. Our elderly beagle/basset hound was really slowing down, then son Peter

came to visit last summer, bringing along his little terrier. Our dog had so much fun playing with this little guy, that we began to give thought to getting a "companion" dog for her. A doctor friend said that such a move might add a couple of years to her life. We



New life in the Schrope family!

found a suitable candidate at our local humane society, and Toto joined our family. She looks nothing like the Toto of film fame, but is indeed a scruffy little bundle of fur (possibly Shih Tzu and many other things). Our old dog is now enjoying a "second childhood," and this little clown keeps us laughing. She sleeps upside down in Dan's chair and snores loudly.

This is the only part of this job which I do not enjoy. Reporting classmates whom we have lost this past year. We have lost four more classmates, including **Pat Steinkle Valentine** in June. **Mary Ellen Higburg Johnston** lost her battle with cancer in July. Her husband, Sam, passed away just a year before. "Higgie" and I were childhood neighbors and friends.

One good thing which did come because of her illness was touching base with **Edie Shattuck Johnson** again after 50 years. Edie was Higgie's roommate at Western, and called me one evening to get her phone number. We talked for over an hour, and Edie was able to talk to Mary Ellen. I know that she appreciated it.

Polly Taylor Unger passed away in February. Most of us will remember Polly's many theater performances. **Joanne Bordner Telfer** also passed away in February. I had just talked to Joanne by phone in January, as I needed to clarify something in her class news.

I keep busy with my singing groups, handbell choir, and working in the lab as needed, usually one or two days a week. It's a pretty strange retirement, but keeps me out of trouble. Keep those cards, letters, e-mails, etc. coming. If you send in additional news during the year, I'll include it in the next *Bulletin*.

Sue Off Schrope '52
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Sadly we start out with the news of the death of two of our beloved classmates. **Mary Gene Flowers Maher** died in Worthington, Ohio, on June 3, 2008. A lovely note from her oldest daughter, Pat, said that she was a voracious reader and a puzzle lover ... both jigsaw and crossword. She enjoyed gardening while she still could, went on many trips with the local senior group, was fiercely independent and "the best friend anyone could have." She had four children, and nine grandchildren and adored them all. Pat said in her note that "she never seemed frail and never seemed old, and it really shocked us all when the cancer killed her ... after she'd had it for 25 years, we all figured she'd live forever." Thanks, Pat, for a lovely and loving eulogy.

Marjorie Hamm Hanselman passed away on September 26, 2008, in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, after a long illness. She had been active in her church and community and particularly enjoyed working with children. She had four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. **Charlotte Bergmann Russell** visited Marge a few days before her death. Char didn't wake her, but she told her she was there. She commented in her note to me that they had had so many wonderful times together and that she would never forget Marge's wonderful sense of humor and her smile and twinkle in her eye.

That, of course, goes for both Marge and Gene from us all. We were depression babies, and our class was unusually small. Therefore, we were all very close to each other, and any loss is sadness to us all. I have a copy of Marge's obituary and also the letter from Gene's daughter, Pat, and I would be happy to send them to any of you who would like to have them. Just let me know.

Also sad is the news of the death of **Elizabeth Renton Hale's** husband, Erik Kahn. "After 25 years of thinking about it," they decided to formalize their relationship and were married in January, 2008. Betty said that was the bright note in the entire year. They spent the year on a roller coaster, up with hope that a new medication would work, to down when it failed. She said that they were blessed to have two final months of quiet companionship while he was under Hospice care at home.

Cornelia Roettcher Levine is currently recovering from a bilateral knee replacement, which isn't easy. She is adjusting to life with-

out her husband, Lawrence, who died two years ago. Her son, Isaac, has MS and is now on full time disability. Isaac's son, Jonah, is 7 and Corni says she enjoys caring for him. **Mimi Chesslin** was kind enough to inform me that Corni had combined with her husband to write a book, published in 2002, called, *The People and the President: America's Conversation with F.D.R.* It contains some of the millions of letters written to President Roosevelt. Check out the fascinating and laudatory reviews at Amazon.com's book section. It might lead you to read the book.

Mimi Chesslin has retired from the Department of Justice, having spent 18+ years litigating environmental enforcement cases. She was given a plaque commemorating her 50 years serving as a "pioneer" woman of law. She commented that "it isn't easy to explain to others that going to law school and sticking it out in positions when women weren't welcome, depended a lot on her years at Western!" Since her formal retirement, she has spent her time organizing her house, and going through boxes of papers, pictures, letters, kids' report cards, etc., etc. and is now finding time to read books! ...which she hasn't been able to do for years. Last January she (in person) made the motion for the admission of her son Jeremy to the Supreme Court bar, which was accepted. It may have been a first mother/son presentation, and she thought that the one female Justice smiled at her when it was announced that he was admitted. The admission to the bar is certainly an immense honor for Jeremy, and we know how proud Mimi must be.

Liz Brown Peelle has retired from Oak Ridge National Lab and is also working on sorting out boxes of her 38-year career. Her problem is that she has already stored 100 boxes and there is little room left for the remaining 35. She has been giving talks on Bio-Energy and Reducing Your Carbon Footprint. So far she has spoken to four churches and a U of Tennessee grad class of environmental planners. Her husband, Bob, is active on the County Environmental Review Board, but having problems walking and is in another round of physical ther-



Betty Hale and husband Erik Kahn



Mieke and friend in the Galapagos

apy. Their vacation trip last year was to favorite and new places in California, like Yosemite via Ahwahnee and Wawona, Sequoia National Park, (where a deer collided with their rental car), Morro Rock, Big Sur, and four nights sleeping in the redwoods. They celebrated Thanksgiving with the entire family at their daughter's home in Houston, and Christmas with her son and his family in Detroit. Liz suggests that we all go to Oxford for our 55th reunion, which is a good idea. (But Liz, what happened to the deer?)

Mieke Van Waveren Smit and her husband, as usual, have had a full and busy year traveling all over the world. They started with a cold trip to Canada in February for Henk's birthday, where they enjoyed a warm reunion with their family. In April, they went to the Galapagos Islands, a trip they talked about for weeks. In August, they went back to Canada, and in October, they were off to Grenada, Spain. From there they went on to Malaga where they boarded the *Clipper Adventurer* for a voyage to Dakar, with stops in Morocco, the Canary Islands, and the Cape Verde Islands. Ah, but that is not all. After they disembarked in Dakar, they took a ferry to Goree Island, the slave trading center from which 1.5 million slaves left for the New World. The highlight of the trip was Mali. They flew to Timbuktu where they had a visit with a Tuareg tribe and were entertained by them with dances, songs, and camel rides. On the way home they spent four days in Paris. I wish I could fit in all of their adventures. Those two certainly do get around!

Last year we spoke of Mieke's meeting Dasha, an extremely talented teenage piano player, in Odessa in 2006. A group of admirers including Mieke and Henk arranged for her to come to the U.S. in 2007 to the Aspen Music Festival. She returned to Aspen this past summer on a full scholarship. Mieke has been raising the money to bring her to the U.S., and has reached her initial goal of \$25,000. So Dasha is now in New York with her mother. Juilliard has recognized her prodigious talent and dedi-



Joanna Hills '54, still on the ball!

cation and offered her an admission this fall at Pre-College Juilliard where she is fulfilling academic requirements. This is really a wonderful story. Some day we will hear about this lovely, talented person. If you wish to learn more about her, contact Mieke at hsmit@roadrunner.com

Dee Randles Hutchinson writes that she and Jack have had a very good year ... nothing very exciting ... but she feels that at our age that is good news. They don't travel as they used to or at least not as far, but they do go periodically to their condo in Florida and made a trip to Baltimore to see Jack's brother and family. On their trip east she said that they were blessed to have daughter Melissa and her husband George doing the driving. Dee and Jack live close to all three of their daughters and their families, so they are able to be with them frequently.

Sandy Franz Barnes had left shoulder replacement surgery last October and was recovering with physical therapy and beginning to resume kitchen duties, although husband Phil was still her chauffeur and assistant in getting dressed. She had the right shoulder done two years ago and she is now moving it freely and without pain, so she is confident that this left one will also end up cured. In September she and Phil flew to Switzerland. First they went to Munich for a few days of exploring on their own, and then they joined a tour, which took them to major cities and up several Alpine mountains. At the time when she wrote, she was expecting all three of their sons and their wives and daughters to gather together with them for Christmas.

I got a lovely Christmas card from **Mitzi Carolyn Masters** saying that they were having lots of snow in Minneapolis and that she wasn't having much excitement, but was

still hanging on. Mitzi, that was a short note, but thanks for writing it. It's always nice to learn that our friends are "hanging on." And, yes, you most certainly did get a lot of snow!

When **Jeanie Meierjohan Fossier** wrote, her son David and his wife were in town busy working at their Alert Safety Products Company. Their daughter, Donna, is still in Colorado, happily working with her friend, Len, in his landscape, forestry and wood products company. All of them visited the Fossiers in September, and it was so nice to have the whole family together. Their houseboating was over for the winter, but by the time you read this, they should be happily bobbing about on the river again.

Lucy Ann Liggett joined her brother Al and his wife, Beth, in Malaysia for two weeks on their sailboat *Sunflower*. She enjoyed being introduced to their favorite places on and around Penang and Langkawi and to the friends they've made in the eight years or so they've headquartered there. Lucy spends her volunteer time serving on the board of their Friends of the Library and helping sort the books for the book sales. Three book clubs keep her reading books she might not otherwise have found. Her Tai Chi instructor has recruited her to help with beginning classes, so she keeps well exercised. She joined other alums in the Detroit area for a meeting in October, when Judy Waldron came to share news of Western and Miami. She also suggests that we have a 55th Reunion this year. Good idea.

Joanna Bullard Hills is still very busy with her B & B. If you are heading to Boston, call her before getting a hotel room. She sent the picture showing that she, like Lucy, keeps well exercised. Joanna's picture indicates that we may be oldies, but we are still on the ball!

Willa Ward made a visit to Fire Island last summer to see Joanna and her son, Tad, and his family. It was to be a short weekend visit; that is, until she fell. She was on the beach having fun watching the dogs playing and chasing each other on the sand, when one of them unintentionally bumped her as he ran by. She lost her balance and fell on her back on the sand. The result was a compressed fracture in the lower back. The good news is that with six weeks of wearing a brace and physical therapy, she was back to her old self. (Also of interest is that she reported that when she collapsed to the ground, her coffee cup remained intact.) She is still doing well, and was able to visit friends in Colorado over the Christmas holidays. There was lots of snow, but she stopped skiing downhill a few years ago.

My favorite trip last year was to New England ... first to Dartmouth for Freshman

Parents' Weekend. Our granddaughter's parents couldn't go, so Frank and I filled in. We definitely would have won the grey-hair award if they had had one. Not only was it fun to be with Sarah, but Dartmouth had entertainment for us. One lecture was on rare books. After the talk, we were allowed to *gently* turn pages of gems like a Shakespeare First Folio, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and other treasures like that. Wow! We left there and spent some time sailing with friends in waters familiar to us from having lived in Connecticut. One NE joy is to be able to eat a lobster. And I have a new recipe for you. I plan to patent it, but I'll let you in on it. *Prepare lobsters and put them and a bowl of melted butter on the table. Then, accidentally spill your glass of wine in the bowl. Ignore the resulting confusion and noisy gripes from companions. They will soon realize that this makes a new, high-class and delicious lobster dip!*

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Hi everyone! Although you will be reading this in the spring, as I write today it is cold, cold, cold! To give myself a nice warm feeling with which to begin I visited the website for the new Western Program at Miami. The program's director, Mary Jean Corbett, is fondly calling it "third-wave Western." If you can take time to follow this link, <http://www.cas.muohio.edu/western/index.html>, you should feel reassured that Miami is taking care to perpetuate the spirit and the identity of the Western we knew. I really feel the new Western program deserves our support. Come see for yourself, come to Reunion!

I can always be sure that the first "blue card" to arrive each year will be from **Sandra Peeters Andreucci**, who happens to be first alphabetically too. How convenient for me! This year Sandy's letter contained sad news — husband Joe died in September. Sandy and Joe had 50 good years together, though, and their large family, a comfort to her, was increased by the addition in July of their 15th grandchild, Isabella Franchesca Young, who spends two days a week with Sandy. I envy you, Sandy — none of my grandchildren has ever lived close enough for me to see them weekly. And how nice for the grandchildren to have such frequent contact with you!

Visit our web site directory to register your e-mail address: wcaa@muohio.edu

As usual, this year **Helen Potts Felsenthal** and husband Norm traveled all over the country, although they have been “retired” now for three years. I’d like to quote the first sentences of Helen’s holiday letter: “Not a lot has happened, and that’s good. No serious health problems, no accidents, no family emergencies, and no bankruptcies — although we wish we could say that for the rest of the country.” Don’t we all! Helen and Norm manage to spend time with all their successful family — daughter Kim, son-in-law Josh and grandsons Sam and Spencer on the East Coast; and son David, with wife Felisa and children Michael, Deena and Amira on the West. In a recent e-mail, Helen commented on how hard it is to remember that **Barbara Kuemmerlein Beesley** has been gone over a year now — I am sure Helen and I are not the only ones who miss her.

I hope you’ll all pardon a little reminiscing. When Karl and I first moved to Cincinnati, we knew no one in town, but somehow **Darlys Tracy Graham** discovered that we were here, so one day our silent phone rang, and a few days later she and I spent an afternoon together. That evening Karl and Jesse met, beginning a family friendship that has lasted for years, even though the Grahams moved to Maryland, and then to West Virginia, while their sons Jeffery and John were still very small. Remembering how Darlys and I used to scour the ads in the Sunday newspaper together, it’s hard for me to believe the following: “You see I’ve little to talk about except farm stuff. We don’t shop except for fresh food. Our Netflix are our movies. Our outings are agricultural related.” If I lived on that beautiful West Virginia farm along with Jesse’s lambs and other animals, I’d be happy to watch Netflix too, Darlys.

It’s always so good to hear from a classmate I haven’t heard from for a while. **Caroline Kauzmann Greer** sent her blue card from Bellingham, Washington. She downsized, sold her house, and — with her sister — bought a condo there. She writes that she was surprised by all the snow they had over Christmas, but that it has now all vanished. I approve of snow that comes for Christmas but doesn’t overstay its welcome. It was good to hear from you again, Caroline; we have some catching up to do!

In Sanford, North Carolina, **Mihrican Ozdemir Havens** is enjoying the pleasures of small town living after years in the Tampa Bay area. She and Perry live right across the lake from son Erol, and Mihrican is still thrilled, she says, at being able to see deer come to drink from the lake and to spot the occasional fox “scurrying along the forest perimeter.” Mihrican is hoping to hear of any Western group activities within “reasonable driving distance” of Sanford. Any North Carolinian alums have something to offer?

My mind boggled at this: **Joanne Vyse Jung** and husband Dick together have given over 10,000 hours of volunteer service to St. David’s Medical Center by going in twice a week for over 18 years. That is so impressive! They also play bridge twice a week plus every two or three weekends with a couple at an assisted-living facility. I’m sure everyone who remembers frantic calls from one of our college smokers for, “Fourth for bridge?” will appreciate how welcome that service is. And in addition, I understand that playing bridge helps keep aging brain cells functioning, not that any of us have aging brain cells. Joanne writes that her three girls and their families are all doing well, with the exception of son-in-law Jack who is nearing the end of his battle with ALS.

Although the Jungs did not see **Gilberta Rickel** last year, they stay in touch with her. Gilberta, you will remember, is in a nursing home in Benton, Arkansas. Hi, Gilberta!

Barbara Williams Kearns, during a recent activity put on by her medieval group, The Society for Creative Anachronism, was “jailed” in a sturdy cage of branches and metal stakes constructed by a member of the church hosting the affair. “It reminded me of a jungle gym,” Barbara said, so — clad in her medieval finery — she proceeded to climb up, over, and out of the jail while bystanders gasped, cheered, and worried that she might fall and break a hip. Not Barbara! Upon reaching freedom she picked up her skirts and outran her “jailer.” I’m sure that I’m not the only one wishing I were in equally good shape!

On a less lighthearted note, Barbara writes that **Sheila Thompson Helm** is now receiving hospice care. Sheila’s MS has progressed to the point that Jim can no longer manage her care by himself. In the nursing facility, she has improved enough that there is hope she can begin receiving the same care back in the apartment with Jim. The Helms have two sons also living in Grand Rapids, so, fortunately, they do have family support close by. If anyone cares to send a card to them, Barbara says their address is Apartment A-11, 2510 Lake Michigan Drive NW, Grand Rapids MI, 49504-8043.

Nancy Adams McCord’s Christmas letter made me laugh until I cried. It was so Nancyish, if you know what I mean. Her opening sentence was “‘Stayin’ Alive’ is my mantra.” She may be battling ovarian cancer, but she’s doing it with her usual humor and courage. Towards the end, she strikes a serious note, “This is true — I have educated smart, wonderful kids — three doctorates and a master’s. The grandkids are setting the world on fire ... you can find them in law school, Korea, in the band and on the computer.” Her postscript reads, “If you still have me on your prayer list, thank you. It’s working.” We do, and you’ll stay there, Nancy.



Jail break! Barbara Kearns, caught in the act

My Christmas greeting/blue card news from **Patty Van Auken Robinson** this year arrived by e-mail, along with a group of pictures I’m not technically savvy enough to forward. But as usual Patty looks half her age in pictures taken in Turkey, Greece, Cuba and Salt Lake City. Another picture shows her with her granddaughter Lisa at Yellowstone. The two of them attended an Elderhostel for grandchildren at Brigham Young University. The trip to Cuba had a few hardships for Patty: “...for the week I had no vegetables and one serving of canned fruit. The hurricanes had wiped out their crops, so they will have to live like that for three to six months before the crops come in again. The city water was out so we bathed with a bucket of water in the shower stall and flushed the toilet with a bucket of water.” Did you notice that she’s not complaining? Patty’s like that; that’s why she was such a good roommate I held on to her for four years!

Carol Silvernail Swager’s e-mail arrived at the last minute, but it was well worth waiting for. I remembered hearing on the news about the Christmas blizzard in Montana, but I had no idea that Carol and Warren were driving home from daughter Elizabeth’s home in Sheridan, Montana — 200 miles in that weather! Carol talked casually about the trip, and then in the same casual tone mentioned that son Tim had won the John Scott award, in November, joining “company with such past winners as Albert Einstein, Madame Curie, the Wright brothers and Thomas Edison.” I had never heard of this prestigious award, so I went on line to investigate and found a fascinating video of Tim in which he explained his field of research in language even someone as scientifically

challenged as I could understand. The practical applications, achieved and potential, of his work are breathtaking. Take a minute to Google "Timothy Swager," watch the video and I'm sure you'll be impressed. Carol Lee, you have a big, beautiful family to be proud of.

Barbara Ballinger Sweet, her husband, George, and her 15-year-old granddaughter Whitney (the rider) brought a horse most of the way from Mayer, Arizona, believe it or not, because the timing of Whitney's riding competition coincided with that of our Reunion. Barb retired from Vermont Academy a while back, and now she's in her ninth year at the Orme School of Arizona. She's cut back to two classes of middle grade science, plus horsemanship, and an 11th grade girls symposium. That sounds pretty much like full time to me!

If any of you are trying to decide whether or not to attend Reunion this year, let me quote from Barb's blue card. "I can't tell you what a wonderful time I had at the Reunion ... seeing you again and getting to know you better than I ever did. It's crazy how after all these years we have so much more in common than we would ever have dreamed when we were young." I felt exactly the same way, Barb, and I hope as much as you do that you can come to our next Reunion.

How about you, wouldn't you like to connect with a classmate you haven't seen for years, someone perhaps you weren't even close to then, and find a renewed and deepened friendship? It can happen!

As for the **Millers**, all is well, I'm glad to be able to say. We were all together for Christmas, quite a feat when you consider how many of us there now are. The newest ad-



Sally's proud son Michael, holding his grandson!

dition to the family is our first great-grandchild, Benjamin Joel. Granddaughter Steffanie, considerate as always, managed to give birth on September 28th, the birthday of our youngest grandchild, Zachary, and this makes it so much easier for this aging mind to remember. My most recent book, *No Mush Today*, came out last September, and there are two more books under contract. It seems forever that I've been waiting for the publication of my middle-grade

novel, *Kyle's Island*, which isn't due out until 2010, while my next picture book, tentatively titled *Sunday Shopping*, is waiting for the artist to finish her current project so that she can begin work on it.

So that's the roundup for this year. I would have liked to hear from more of you, but even with a generous turn-around time, I know it's hard to take care of everything during the Christmas season. So I have a suggestion. Write to me or e-mail me or call me now and I'll save your news for the next *Bulletin*. How's that for "an offer you can't refuse"? Love to you all ...

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Gretchen Wampler Mousetis: "Our 50th Reunion in June was the best. I do wish more of us could have been there. After the Reunion, Stan and I spent two weeks in Hawaii with my brother, Joe, and all his children. We were celebrating his 70th birthday. Our fall has been busy. My daughter Jenny's women's volleyball team from Emory University won the national championship and she was named National Coach of the Year for Division III. We followed them to Pittsburgh, Atlanta, and Bloomington, Illinois. Happy New Year to all."

Esin Aka Atil: "I celebrated my 70th birthday with a two-week trip to Tuscany, Italy, in the spring, accompanied by my husband and a couple of friends. My husband thought a week would have been enough — I thought a month would have been too short. So much for being an art historian married to an engineer. He loved the Coliseum and spent an hour there; I loved the Church of St. Francis in Assisi and could have spent a day there. Other than that, I have been busy writing and lecturing. Lately, I really enjoy giving small intimate dinner parties to friends and cooking gourmet meals — which I never thought I would be into. Washington keeps us busy with its cultural activities, social life, and, now, political changes."

Karla Noell Galantay: "I have spent the last 20-plus years teaching English as a foreign language and writing my short stories, poems and plays. Most in English, but many in French. I decided to publish them myself — those which were in English — and started last February. I chose a local printer and they did a terrific job considering that they were all French speaking, trying to cope with my English texts. We were both surprised at how difficult the task was, but it came out

very well. They finally came out in August (hence my absence from our Reunion.) They are an autobiography called *Scenes of a New York City Childhood and Other Stories*. Cathy Cooper could advise you should you be interested. I am selling them at cost, \$30 plus postage. I am now going to turn these Scenes into short takes for film." Karla's grandson Edward (10) won a prestigious award for his violin playing last year and is now the youngest in a special Conservatory class for talented violinists. Her husband's father was first violinist at the Budapest Opera, so, Karla says, "I guess the gift jumped a generation."

Kathy Anderson Raker: "Our year has been highlighted by a family trip to Scotland in August. Eight of us went and traveled by van throughout most of the country. While there, our son became engaged to be married. Therefore, the rest of the year has been preparing for the wedding which will take place in Cleveland on New Year's Eve. In addition to that, Bob and I are celebrating our 50th anniversary on December 28. So, you can see we have had a wonderful exciting year and we feel very blessed. It was nice seeing those that attended Western's 50th!"

Liz Vance Frydell: "I just returned from the Indianapolis chapter of the Western College Alumnae Club held at the house of **Pam Watts Coates '70**, who, for the past few years has hosted our Christmas Brunch. Although our club is small, and of course getting smaller, I was truly excited to see five members of our class: **Judy Weir Vandergriff, Joan Brooks Lennox, Sally Raub Alkire, Jane Smucker Fryman**, and me. We had a grand time talking about our years at Western and had some good laughs. Also **Dru Zearley Clingman** and **Jill Bradley Litherland** (both '57) were there. Quite a reunion. As for me, I am still working full time in the office of the largest Medicaid network in Indiana and staying very busy. I'm considering retirement, but ... my clinical nursing skills are pretty obsolete now. I would have to take refresher courses to go back into a hospital setting. Our family is doing well. Our one grandchild, Bobby, is 11 years old now and comparable to a whirling dervish. Of course he is the most beautiful and intelligent child in the universe!"

Beth Brown Carey, in her husband's words: "Beth's lymphoma is in remission and she gets a three months reprieve before any more treatments. She had no problems from her treatments. We spent the summer months in our Indiana home along the river and returned to Florida in late August. Thanksgiving at church friends' house, and one of our sons' family will be here for two weeks for the holidays. No further travel plans at this time."

Polly Smith Venable: Polly is taking "full time" classes for another degree, as well



Jane and Jack Fryman last fall, attired for an Egyptian dinner while cruising on the Nile River

as working full time. She writes that her daughter, Cricket, an Air Force Lt. Col., was installed as the Squadron Commander of the Medical (Hospital) Squadron at Andrews AFB. Polly will be spending Christmas with her in D.C. In September, Polly went to Ohio, and ended up in a hurricane with no power for three days. Her Florida home escaped the hurricane!

Betty Strong Miller: Betty claims that the year was a very short one. However, she was able to travel to several points of interest; work as a volunteer at several educational sites and with hospital fund raising; enjoy monthly dinner clubs; attend shows, concerts, and school events; and top it all off being mother and grandma.

June Regan Young: June cherishes her fond memories of those Western days. I know she speaks for all of us. She keeps up a brave front even with some joint problems, and she and Dave have enjoyed some traveling including a stop at our house in Melbourne, Florida. June continues her art work, and having seen an example of this, I can attest to its loveliness and creativity.

Juli Beasley Kinchla: In her note, Juli put down in words, what each of us felt at our 50th reunion — the indelible attachment that four years of friendship had created. Then, in August, she had the opportunity to go on the road, for two weeks, with her two sons and their famous band, Blues Traveler. It sounded like her favorite part was life on a tour bus — falling asleep as the bus left one gig, waking up (after a solid night's sleep!) at the next stop. "For anyone with insomnia, there is nothing as soothing as sleeping in your own private curtained-off bunk on a rolling bus." She enjoyed a few state fairs along the way, as well as seeing parts of the Midwest that were new to her. In January, she'll attend youngest son, Tad's, wedding, in Texas.

Jane Smucker Fryman: "Jack and I enjoyed a winter trip to Chile and Argentina

and a fall trip to Egypt. We traveled with Elderhostel where their emphasis on life-long learning adds to our understanding of other cultures and enjoyment of being in new countries. Western's international program certainly opened doors for me. I arrived on campus having only traveled to Indiana and Washington, D.C. **Elsa Rivera-Sinclair** from Lima, Peru, was my next-door neighbor and she tweaked my curiosity about South America. Our 50th Reunion was wonderful. I joined the Indianapolis Western alumnae club and attended their winter meeting with **Judy Weir Vandergriff**, **Sally Raub Alkire**, **Joan Brooks Lennox**, and **Liz Vance Frydell**. Our children and grandchildren are busy with school, work, family and community activities. We are fortunate to see them frequently."

Cay Kawallek Manildi: "Another year has flown by. Many trips were squeezed into the year. First there was a wonderful trip to a small town in Mexico staying with friends and experiencing many of the local customs, including a Quinceanera and a Mexican wedding. They do know how to party! We went to China on a trip sponsored by our local Chamber of Commerce. As a result we had an opportunity to see some of the fine products produced. It was exciting to be in China as they were getting ready for the Olympics. There were many trips to San Diego to visit children and grandchildren and of course Oxford for the famous 50th celebration. What a treat to be able to be there and to enjoy the company of some of our classmates. They can't tell me that 50 years have passed! On the homefront, we are gradually converting from the old apple orchard into grapes. Santa Cruz appellation is quite a good grape growing area. Of course, there was still a lot of canning of fruit — apples, pears, apricots, nectarines and peaches.

"Bruce is always busy on the ranch as well as helping people or organizations, and I keep busy with a variety of activities — church, facilitating Hospice bereavement groups, local hospital foundation board, fund raising and being a lay associate with the Adrian Dominican Congregation. Looking forward to a new granddaughter to be born in the next couple of weeks. She will be named after my mother, Grace, who probably loved Western more than we."

Marie Uveges Holt: Marie was challenged with several health issues in 2008, including gout, shingles, and a cataract, but is grateful for the positive aspects of her life. She upgraded her computer, enjoyed theater performances, and continues to play bridge as much as she can. She attended her brother's 70th birthday in Kentucky, and is happy that the rest of her family lives within 10 minutes of her home. This brings them all closer together in many ways. She is grateful for the joy brought to her by her 17-year-old autistic grandson.

Phyllis Yeamans Bailey and Earl celebrated their 50th anniversary with a trip to Italy and Germany, spending a few days in the Dolomites, Garmisch Partenkirchen, Augsburg, Bamberg, then a week at the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth to see four operas in the Ring series. Phyllis works with their website and does the accounting while Earl keeps busy hybridizing and overseeing the greenhouse for their orchid business.

Joan Avakian Poritsky recently visited her mother in upstate New York, who has finally put her house up for sale, and is planning to move to be closer to Joan. It will not be easy for her to leave her friends, church, and the town she's lived in all her life. Another trip will be to the San Francisco area to visit a new granddaughter. Meanwhile, Joan is working on another short story. Her first one was published earlier this year in a collection by other Minnesota writers.

Rosalind Chu sends greetings from Concord, North Carolina, where she lives with her brother and sister-in-law.

Jennie Lou Fredley Klim: I continue to spend hours of each night and day, working and re-working my method books for the classroom. The earlier ones, for the private studio teacher, are completed. Paul and I enjoy the sunshine of Florida and find its warmth very merciful on our joints.

Our 50th Reunion was memorable. It was wonderful to gather and renew friendships, reminisce about our times at Western, and simply enjoy being with each other. We thought about and missed those classmates who were not with us. And now, to all of you, I wish strength for every new day, and the realization that each one of you is special to the rest of us. The bonds of friendship have no limits. I have come to believe that friendship is one of the things that make life truly meaningful. I agree with Shakespeare who wrote, "I count myself in nothing else so happy, as in a soul remembering my good friends." I send you all my love.

Jennie Lou Fredley Klim '88
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The Year We Turned 70!!!!

I'm sad to report that junior roomie **Barbara Brookover** passed away in Saddlebrook, New Jersey, on September 11, 2008, having lost her six-month battle with cancer. We received the news from her sister, Nancy Biel.



Just half the Keefer family, in Orange Beach, AL, 2008

Word reached the office that **Evelyn Garibaldi Jackson** passed away January 3 of this year, at her home in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She had suffered from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's for 12 years. An extensive obituary cited Evelyn's artistic talent, especially as a seamstress and prize-winning quilter. She is survived by her husband, three children and six grandchildren.

As we begin to gear up for our 50th class Reunion (did I just say that?), I look forward to hearing from *all* of you. **Connie Everett Cunningham** speaks to this subject as she reports that she and **Barbara Kong Vlachos** plan to be in Oxford in June of 2010. She admits to not feeling old enough for such an event and counsels us all to take good care of ourselves so we can celebrate the Big One together. She was writing immediately following a week's cruise with partner Antonia followed by knee surgery. (I don't think the two events were related ...)

From Marquette, Michigan, **Christine Dempf Saari** tells us that with Barack Obama's win in November, she is finally ready to apply for U.S. citizenship, having been disheartened by all the social upheaval since her move here in 1964. She and **Kathy Howard Sutherland** continue to vie for first place as "Most Traveled." The Saaris reunited with old friends in many parts of this country and around the world: from Atlanta to Duluth, to Brittany, Finland, Poland, and Austria where they own a family farm. She continues to enjoy writing, reading with a book group and supporting local artists. Her three grandchildren span kindergarten to high school. All of Michigan is holding its breath concerning the auto industry, her son's source of income. She sends love and resilience to all.

Jay and **Susie Williams Keefer** welcomed grandchild #8, the seventh boy, born to their son Kurt and wife Kaysie. At the other end of the spectrum, their oldest grandchild is 16 and recently got his driver's license. A number of reunions took up their summer, including Susie's high school class that had a party to celebrate their entering their seventh decade. The Keefers report of being in good health — within reason!

The eight grandchildren in **Sara White Arn**'s family span pre-K to two in college. Their 17-year-old Parker earned his first solo airplane flight and had the back of his shirt cut out to honor the occasion. Sara and her sister-in-law traveled to Thailand, Cambodia, Burma and Laos this year including a visit to their driver's dirt floor home. Sara says she and Dale must be the oldest people they know as they have now experienced their *second* 500-year flood when the Mississippi almost did in their Clarksville cabin. Many doctor visits rounded out their past year. Join the crowd!

Claudia White Gilmartin is luxuriating in her recent retirement. She writes of enjoying each day's chance for spontaneity and creativity: doing such things as taking the dog to the beach, repainting a room, gathering with her family at Lake George, volunteering at the library, and adding on a sunroom. I hope you'll add joining us in Oxford next year to your list of retirement activities.

It was great to hear from **Patti Alman Halbig** in Murrieta, California. She spends two days a week taking care of her two grandsons, plus an added time with the 4-year-old who is taking cello lessons so he can be in an orchestra! Patti continues to be very involved in things genealogical and travels to Salt Lake City each year to do research. She and daughter Heidi went to Italy last summer to see all the things that Patti missed on the Western Seminar of 1960. It was an "art major's dream come true."

Emmy Lou Lehman Hammer-Greschel and husband Bill have just accomplished what they set out to do a couple of years ago. They have moved — right before Christmas — to South Carolina. (Address: 148 Willowbend Lane, Summerville, SC, 29485-8446; telephone 843-771-3572.) Her guest room is ready and waiting. They were able, through all this upheaval, to spend time with one of their daughters in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and another in Loris, South Carolina.

Kathy Howard Kinaway Sutherland and husband John, while awaiting a move back into their formerly-burned-out condo in Bath, Maine, have contin-

ued to pursue their busy lives. They both teach at the Senior College of the University of Southern Maine where Kathy is also on the board. As a string class was offered, Kathy took up violin after a 40-year hiatus. (How are your calluses by now?!) They spent time in Puerto Rico, England, and Washington, D.C., among other places this past year. And, if I have this figured right, Kathy has 12 grandchildren, the newest being born to daughter Jennifer. Kathy also continues to paint and both she and John enjoy the theater.

Seeing America was the theme of **Mary Flagler Rachau**'s year. From her home in Illinois she traveled to Wisconsin, over to several East Coast states, then down to North Carolina and Tennessee where she participated in her first apple butter cook-off at her cousin's church. Mary hopes to see everyone at our 2010 Reunion.

Peter and **Nancy Kohlman Freeman** have done their share of traveling this past year. Many of the trips included visits and holidays with family and babysitting time with grandchildren in Florida and California. Three weeks in Italy was also on their agenda, however. Nancy had successful double cataract surgery and is now trying to add computer literacy to her list of activities. She spoke with **Jane Ramsey Scott Grant** during Christmas and all is well with her.

I had a great and interesting letter from **Barbara Kong Vlachos**. She was just coming off the Obama visit to Oahu during the holidays. You may have read that while they were there, the islands were inundated with rain followed by a blackout because the island-wide generators were repeatedly struck by lightning. The Obama entourage was furnished with portable generators immediately, but the rest of the island had to wait for six to 33 hours for a resurgence of power. Barb, being near the University of Hawaii, was back in business the following morning. She visited ex-roommate **Connie Everett Cunningham** in Santa Cruz, Cali-



Could it be all — 18, count 'em — of the Sara White Arn family?



Syd and Pete Benson with son Scott, his new family, and Syd's sister Kay

fornia, last year. She continues to encourage us all to visit her islands via direct flights to Maui and Hawaii and a lovely three-hour ferry ride from Maui to Oahu. Barb will see us in Oxford next year.

Another classmate has become a grandparent to twins! Pete and **Syd Stout Benson**'s grandsons were born in California to Doug and wife Ky-Van. They just celebrated their 1st birthday in March. Needless to say, the Bensons have been flying across the county on a semi-regular basis. Son Robb, in Wooster, Ohio, is father to three teenagers whom they see weekly. Syd continues to volunteer at her church and she and Pete are trail monitors at their county parks.

Sally "Doodie" Allen Masters reports that she is getting used to widowhood since husband Jim died in 2007. She traveled to Alaska with a friend last summer but is otherwise happy to be in Naples, Florida, where she has lots of tennis and golf friends. Manoug and **Jo Masson Manougian** were at Doodie's for Thanksgiving. She is working on Jo to travel to Oxford with her next year.

Betty Milligan Kipp writes from Savannah that Don is back on his feet after a year and a-half in a wheelchair. They flew to Paris, boarded a river boat and went to Normandy. She is getting close to quitting golf which she thinks will make her friends happy! While they were visiting their daughter, Cin-



Linda Lozier is alive and well, living in Cincinnati and still pursuing her art. Here is her 2008 Christmas card.

dy, and family in New Hampshire, the Kipps also dropped in on **Marlene Fink Della Badia '59**. And they spent Thanksgiving with son Steve and family in Seattle. Sounds like Betty will be back for our 50th next June.

Alice Anderson Stallings traveled to Greece twice last year — once for the Greek Easter and again for her grandson's birthday. In the fall, daughter Alicia received a prestigious award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which Alice and her sister flew to New York to witness. Alice reports she is finally settled in South Carolina.

Ursula Seeler Parobek and **Cathy Bauer Cooper** ran into each other at the December Dayton (Ohio) alumnae club meeting, a holiday lunch and silent auction. Ursie lives there and is a regular; Cathy was representing the WCAA.

Isabel Oteo-de Martinez is skipping the 2009 Reunion and saving *all* her energies for 2010. Life has been difficult, for — as we all know too well — when you reach 70, it's "here an ache, there an ache, everywhere an ache, etc." Plus Issy is caring for her husband, whose Parkinson's disease is in an advanced stage. Their four children are all well (despite two working in banking and finance); four grandchildren — three boys and one girl — are between 6 and 9.

Just in from **Annette Power Johnson**: grandchild #4 arrived last year. She enjoys visiting her two sons and their families, playing with golden retriever Sandi, and being a member of her church's vestry and on the board of their community association.

As we were standing in Peabody Hall waiting to parade out to our graduation ceremony in May of 1960, someone happened to mention that our 50th reunion would take place in 2010. I for one never gave a thought to the idea that ANYTHING would happen in such a far off foreign-sounding time. And now we are one year away from that amazing event. You have more than a whole year to arrange 2010 so you can join your classmates in Oxford from June 18 to 20. I am also hoping to hear from every one of you — especially if you can't make it to Western. So be prepared to be hounded! I accept Christmas cards, notes, letters, e-mails, phone calls, personal visits. Jean, Audrey, Barbara, Karen, Janet, Helen, Catherine, Ann, Evelyn, Peggy, Donna, Maryann, Ruth, Joan, Phyllis, and more: We haven't heard from you in years. Now's the time.

Jan Sandrock MacEwen
14 Codfish Ln.
Weston, CT 06883
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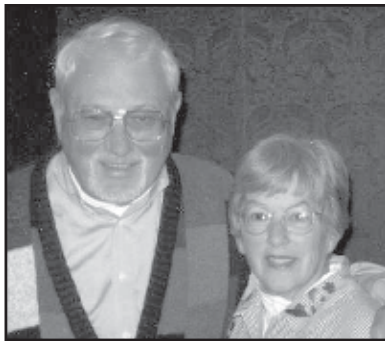
What do **Donna Shalala** and Tony Blair have in common?

I was going to put the answer at the end of these notes, but decided that would be silly and cumbersome so I will tell you now. Each of them has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President George W. Bush. Donna beat Tony by half a year, receiving her medal in June of 2008. Tony (if I can call her Donna, shouldn't I be able to call him Tony?) didn't get his medal until January of 2009. I am honored to call her my friend and even more honored that she calls me hers.

Later last summer Donna was in Argentina where she had a "lovely visit" with **Elena Svihalek** in Buenos Aires. She does not have e-mail, but we can reach her through her son's (marinsvihalek@hotmail.com) or her snail mail address is Elena Svihalek, Estados Unidos 1788 cap. fed., floor 6, apt 10, Buenos Aires, Argentina 1101. Elena told Donna that she would like to hear from Western friends.

Snails, for some reason, reminds me of elves. Both are small? Whatever, **Nancy Smith Carlson's** annual newsletter told of serving on the Christmas Tree Lighting Committee for Westbrook — her 25th year. It sounds like a huge project with every Christmas activity one could imagine. "All in all the event is great fun, lots of work, and usually a very cold afternoon especially when I am dressed up like an elf." Nancy and Walt were heading south in January for a cruise in South America, followed by Williamsburg and Orlando, Florida. The Carlsons, too, managed a visit with **Elena Svihalek**: "We were able to spend a few hours chatting in the attractive bar at the Marriott in Buenos Aires. ... She brought me up to date on many of the girls we had gone to school with." The themes of contentment, family and community ran through Nancy's letter — good things to read about in this difficult time.

Judi Amos Hubbell did not say anything about being an elf. She seems to be content with being her own, sweet self. She, too, is busy with family and activities around Janesville and beyond. Speaking of beyond, Lucy, her youngest, had just returned from a seven-week mission project in China with Youth With A Mission. Judi told of selling two of the farms. She has retained the Centennial Farm where Al grew up and the Sesquicentennial Farm where she and Al lived for more than 30 years and reared their four girls and where she still lives.



Walt and Nancy Smith Carlson '62

Wedding bells are ringing for a member of the class of '62! **Helgard Jungeblodt Deuel** is to be married in May of this year. "Dr. Merritt William Bates ... has stolen my heart and as a revenge I stole his!" Bill, a retired college professor, is a widower, a member of Helgard's parish and a "handsome, tall man." Sounds good to me. Her joy just shone through her e-mail. How very nice. Our best wishes for a long, healthy, happy time together.

"What an interesting, still somewhat surrealistic, adrenalin-pumping year I had in 2008!" Thus began **Judy Dudman Henderson's** Annual Message. Now an "honorably retired" Presbyterian pastor, she nonetheless accepted an invitation early last year to teach a semester at the University of Livingstonia, College of Education, in the central African country of Malawi — where, two years earlier, she had taught a three-week continuing education class in the College of Theology. An unexpected additional honor came when she was installed as the Associate Pastor of the Livingstonia CCAP (Central Church of Africa Presbyterian). Anyone curious to learn more about this great Malawi education awakening might go to website: ulivingstonia.org.

All is well on the home front: Judy and David are celebrating their 45th anniversary by attending younger son Andy's 40th birthday bash; daughter Elizabeth (mother of three elementary school children) was just voted Teacher of the Year at her school; and elder son Wade became a first-time father at 41 in March 2008.

Last year, I said we were planning to move to Rocky River to be nearer to our girls and their families. Well, we are still planning. We have purchased a small house on a very nice, quiet side street. Now we just have to sell this house. Not an easy task, as I am sure many of you know. I do get impatient sometimes, but I also remember that we are exceedingly blessed. In a world where many do not have a roof over their heads, we have two. It will work out. My cell phone will stay the same, 216-402-9719. The land line will change because we are in a different area code. The new address will be 3329 Fairhill Drive, Rocky River, Ohio 44116.

Nancy Chertok Fox hasn't moved and she hasn't changed; she is still the same wonderful person she has been for the 50 years we have known each other. We had a long, newsy chat on the phone shortly after New Year's. I had observed the festive occasion by breaking the little toe on my right foot. Nancy was more productive. As she has for several years, she assisted at a party, sponsored by her congregation, for mentally impaired young adults. She and Bob are busy and well.

These are hard times for many people. Stay in touch. The ties that bind us to old friends also connect us to the girls we once were and serve to strengthen the women we have become.

Joanne Tortoreto Corradi '62
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Celebrating 45 years!

Can you believe it?! This year marks the 45th anniversary of our graduation from Western as well as the 35th anniversary of the Incorporation of the WCAA! We certainly hope that a good number of you will be able to join us in celebration of both occasions in Oxford during the upcoming Reunion Weekend. Our class, known for its SPIRIT, definitely deserves superb representation at the festivities. There will be opportunities galore to reunite, rejoice, reminisce, explore again the beauty of the campus, while learning from, as well as sharing memories with, other Westerners.

We thank the classmates who wrote to share their news and information with us and look forward to hearing from even more of you in the coming year.

Marcia Randlett Oder reported that she and Robin stayed pretty close to home much of the past year due to some of Robin's recurring health issues. Her stepdaughter Karin is a part owner of a very successful race horse; her stepson is having a good year in his real estate business despite national economic woes, and, in fact, has expanded his business to Pittsburgh; and the grandchildren are all fine. Marcia added: "As a Trustee of the WCAA, I am on the Reunion Committee and am looking forward to a good turnout from the Class of '64 for our 45th reunion in June. Let's make this a rehearsal for our 50th."

Marcia communicates a fair amount with **Faith Evans**, and both keep up with **Vivien**

Despotopulos Forbes, who has been having some health problems. Vivien moved to The Herrick House (89 Herrick Street, Beverly, MA 01915) and would enjoy hearing encouraging words from Western friends.

Corlin Hollister Carpenter and Joe and are still enjoying retirement and their four grandchildren: Son Joseph's two girls (Abigail Rose, 8, and Madelyn Elizabeth, 2 ½), nearby in New York; and daughter Karen's two boys (J.J., 4, and Reese Patrick, 1), in Kentucky. "We at least, get to see them on our way back and forth to Florida (for the winter). Yes, we are snow birds, near Spring Hill, Florida." This past September, Cory and Joe took a cruise of western Europe, flying first to London, where they spent a few days on their own. For the next 12 days, they visited: Le Havre, in France, with an excursion to Paris; Vigo, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal, with an excursion to Fatima; Malaga, Spain, with an excursion to Granada and the Moorish Castle Alhambra; Barcelona, Spain; Nice and Cannes on the French Riviera; and Florence and Rome, Italy. "It was especially nice to share Granada and Rome with Joe, since I had seen them in 1964 with Western's Summer Seminar."

Cory's sister, **Theda Hollister Wolfe '66**, has moved up to Barker, New York (near Buffalo), close to her son's family with the two grandchildren. Cory will visit her in the summer.

Prentiss Tubby Weiss appreciates the opportunity to keep in touch via our class column in the *Bulletin*. "Les and I feel very fortunate to live in Maine, a place most people are able only to visit — and we always welcome visitors. We volunteer at the Soup Kitchen, enjoy long walks with our two standard poodles, cruise the Gulf of Maine in the summer, and I continue to paint. I particularly like donating pieces to good causes, such as the Portland Stage Company gala auction. This fall I especially enjoyed painting a scene on a child's Adirondack chair, which was auctioned off to benefit the Maine Discovery Museum. I am pleased, once again, to have my work in one of the top galleries in Maine, the Bayview Gallery. My website (www.prentissweiss.com) shows me painting on location in Casco Bay. We have three grandchildren, who are growing up much too quickly."

Nancy Van Vleck Von Allmen began her blue card message by stating her intention to attend Reunion '09. "Life is good! We are so grateful even though our hearts go out to millions living in unsafe, overpopulated, under-nourished, under-educated, and war-torn areas of this crowded planet. Am loving being a travel consultant and traveling a lot. Older daughter Heidi married in Murren, Switzerland, on March 8th and is expecting a baby in July '09. Our first grandchild! Yeah, can't wait."

Nancy Bergmann Killough welcomed, among the highlights of her year, the news that Scott and Jeanine are expecting child #3 in May. The baby will join a 2-year-old brother and 5-year-old sister. "Susan has 2- and 5-year-old girls and is staying out of this race! Her home is 60 miles west of us, just outside Ft. Worth. Scott's family is happily settled in Forest Hill, Maryland. That's great for them, but pretty far for us. Mike had his second annual September golfing long weekend with Scott this year. We'll all gather this July at a niece's wedding in Vermont, and probably mosey down to Cape Cod from there." Nancy's mother is in assisted living in Plymouth.

Nancy retired from Dallas Public Schools on July 15th and has rapidly filled up her time. She's looking forward to attending our 45th

20, and pray that Obama can use his considerable talents and intelligence to help pull us out of the mess we've been in for the last eight years. Here's to a better year in 2009 for my classmates and our country!"

Irene Abernathy Bierman-McKinney, Professor of Islamic Architecture and Art at UCLA, sent the following news: "Carlton and I are here in Istanbul visiting friends for the New Year. This academic year, and my Sabbatical, we are based in Cairo. Two Egyptian colleagues and I have received a Getty Foundation Research Grant to work on a historical research study of the al-Suyuti cemetery where people have lived, worked and been buried since the 9th C to the present day. Challenging and exciting are two words that can be used about the project in which some 14 other scholars are in-

Faith Evans wrote that she didn't have a lot of news. "The year has been basically work, work, and work. Am still doing clinical social work in a behavioral health clinic, four days a week, and don't dare to retire. Plus it is a mile down the street. I enjoy my pay check, and the work is challenging. However, last summer I escaped to Wyoming for two weeks and had a wonderful trip with the Appalachian Mt. Club, camping and hiking, and getting to know the area. Plenty of grizzlies nearby, beautiful mountains, and high elevation to hike at. We camped at 7,000 feet. I did it! And came home five pounds lighter. I thoroughly enjoy my AMC activities and may do a trip with them to England in June (and may miss the Reunion if I do so)... Only other news is that my many nieces and nephews keep getting married and having more babies. I am now a great-aunt

ALL classes come and celebrate WCAA's 35th at Reunion '09 ... June 19-21!

Reunion in June. Mike's putting off retirement for a bit longer, but still manages to get in a couple of golf games a week. "Mike's dad died August 29th. He had a remarkable 98-year life span. His burial was at the DFW National Cemetery — very impressive. On Veterans' Day, our son-in-law Charlie's F-16 squadron flew the missing man formation over the cemetery, and he flew the 'missing man'! Pretty neat."

Nancy Fierbaugh Collier's family has had a busy and enjoyable year. "We enjoyed quite a bit of time this past summer on our boat cruising the Potomac River. Several grandchildren were able to visit and 'had a blast' tubing on the river. Dick and I enjoyed an Alaskan cruise in early August, celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. Loved being pampered on the cruise, but we wished the weather could have been less rainy in Alaska. The scenery was incredible. Christmastime has been especially busy this year because both Dick and I have been in our church's production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Our family is doing well and growing (oldest grandson is now driving — ouch!)."

Gay Nellis Walker e-mailed that she went to Maui in mid-December, and arrived one day after her fourth grandchild arrived. "Her name is Haley Noelle, and she is just as beautiful as the other three! After a week of helping (daughter) Jamie, I came home for four days and then made a dash over the Sierras before the big snow hit, to my other daughter's. We had a beautiful White Christmas! Other than Haley's birth, there's not much news this year. The most anxiety-producing fun I had was in the period between the Democratic Convention and the election, when I was very active on the campaign. I met a lot of nice people and felt like I was doing something truly important. After the election I felt like I had just been freed from living under a dictator. I'm looking forward to our own inaugural party on January

involved this first year. The second year, we three work together synthesizing the work of the team. Happily, I am no longer chair of the art history department at UCLA, and so can concentrate on my own research, and when I return to UCLA, I'll be back to teaching." Renie wishes all the Class of '64 a New Year of health, joy and peace.

Jan Wood Beaven reported: "Our kids and grandkids are all healthy, happy and a source of joy in our lives (as many of our classmates would say, I am sure). Our volunteer lives are rewarding." Doug heads the search committee for a new leader for the Episcopal Divinity School. Jan chaired the board of the First Night Boston. She explained, "First Night is not just a terrific celebration of art and community on one special night, but the New Year's Festival is actually the culmination of a year's worth of work. Through the Neighborhood Network, young people directly participate in hands-on workshops conducted by artists/educators in the months leading up to First Night. We are joined by 2,000 artists and performers and a million celebrators from all communities of Boston."

Jan continues to consult with nonprofits. One of her favorite clients is Tarts Children's Foundation, which works to strengthen education for low income children. Doug is excited that Virtual Agility's security response system has been installed by government entities as far away as South Africa. "In the spring, we actually visited South Africa on a Stanford University tour led by Doug's cousin, Dave Abernethy ... a beautiful country with an inspiring story of independence, though recent leadership falls short. We also went to New Orleans to rebuild houses. We are returning to work in 2009, with the hope that New Orleans has made progress during 2008 and will flourish soon. We are both hoping for peace on earth and a return to better times for all in 2009."

15 times. It's fun, and not as much work as being a mother."

Betsy Haakinson Breziner e-mailed this brief note: "I continue to work at Coldwell Banker in Wellesley and help my daughters renovate their homes and just be supportive. Would love to see some of the other New England group if they are still in the area."

On her blue card, **Daphne Ostle Allen** wrote: "We're still in snowy Vermont, but went south to D.C. for Thanksgiving. Great to visit with brother, son, their spouses, and grandson, age 1. Saw **Sydney (Schiller Pfeifer)** and Dean in Maine again last summer — rented great place in Owl's Head for a week. My husband is teaching in Burlington at UVM and I am a mentor and sometimes sub at the local elementary school. Hoping '09 is better financially than '08 was! Would love to reconnect with anyone in Vermont or D.C. area from Western days!"

Cathie Koutsogiane Cipolla reported, "No big news. I did attend the lovely wedding of Niles Gold, the son of my cousin **Marie Pasquale Desch '65**. I did retire from teaching high school English this past June. I miss the students and actual teaching; I do not miss all those AP essays. One of our 'children' lives in Brooklyn and works for a new Internet company called Howcast; our son is working on his Ph.D. in Roman art history at the University of Southern California. My best to everyone."

Patricia Spokes Snowden also claimed to not have much in the way of news, "... as my life is going along pretty much as it has over the past few years. I see **Alice Baker** regularly and had lunch with **Shirin Velji '65** when she visited D.C. in October. Alice and I would love to have a small, informal reunion with our Western friends in the area this winter, so we'll see how that plays out. Of course, I'm feeling much poorer, as I ex-

WESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

Honor Roll

A list of donors to any (or all) of our three funds:

Annual (*), for ongoing expenses such as mailing the *Bulletin*, supporting reunions, giving annual scholarships

Reunion/Class (^), for a special project that can be created only by combining gifts from all classes, different every year

Endowment (+), for major projects/programs to keep the spirit of Western alive such as named scholarships, professorships, lecture series

During the year January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008

Percentage of donors appears with each class.

Club Designations

Peabody Society	\$1,000 and up
McKee Circle	\$500-\$999
Clawson Club	\$250-\$499
Century Club	\$100-\$249

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From Audree Riddle, WCP '10, recipient of Florence Prendergast Cockerell and Lydia Zimmerman Study Abroad Scholarships:

I know some of the wonderful ladies in the Association, and some may know me as the Western major who volunteered to create the Western History in an exhibit. ... I am an Interdisciplinary Studies major with focuses in museum studies and interactive media, as well as a history major. I am currently taking courses in public history and have an internship at the Cincinnati Museum Center. ... This year I have remained actively involved in on-campus life. I have for the third year in a row held a position on the Residence Hall Association. This year, I reached a little higher and elected to be the finance director. ... I have made amazing friends, and I plan to continue my work with the Associated Student Government next year. These opportunities would not have been possible if it was not for your support. ... I very much enjoyed spending time with many of you over Reunion Weekend. ... I am also taking Italian in preparation for studying abroad next semester in Rome, Italy. I am so excited to be going abroad. There is no time like now to expand my horizons.



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From Amy Peterson, WCP '09, recipient of Marguerite E. Smith Scholarship:

I am currently completing the Senior Project ... writing about Iraqi film, and I was very happy to put on a four-day Iraqi film festival this past September.

My inspiration came from attending an Iraqi film festival in Amman, Jordan, last fall. While studying in Amman all of last year, I was very fortunate to have many challenging and new experiences, although at times it was also the most difficult period of my life. I lived with a Jordanian family and experienced culture shock at times. The Western Program is a large part of the reason why I was able to spend all of last year in Jordan, as it gave me the flexibility and freedom to follow my preferred focus. I am currently applying to two graduate schools (both in the Netherlands), to complete a master's in American Studies. ... Ultimately I plan to develop myself as a cultural mediator, able to work in a variety of professional environments — perhaps in journalism, English education or diplomacy — that work between the U.S. and other nations, especially in Europe. Thank you for helping me to venture through one of the most enlightening periods of my life.



From Keri Agriesti, WCP '09, recipient of Trustee Scholarship:

I would like to send a warm thank you ... I can only hope that my life will be as successful and meaningful as other Western graduates like you. ... The WCP helped me develop a passion for social justice and equality. My interest in community engagement and advocacy developed through my experiences in New York City, Belize, Over-the-Rhine, Chicago and Brazil. The Over-the-Rhine Residency Program [see Bulletin, p. 6] was a life-changing experience ... My interests in transformative education in socio-cultural context have turned my goal toward a doctorate in cultural anthropology or human geography. I want to be a professor so I can inspire students, like my Western professors inspired me, to be critical thinkers and action-takers... This summer I am returning to Belize to be the teacher assistant for Donna McCollum's Tropical Ecology class. And in the fall, I am moving to Puerto Rico to explore, adventure and learn Spanish! Your assistance and encouragement have allowed me to make the most of my learning adventures in school and in life. May the circle never be broken.



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From Peabody Scholarship recipients:

I'm a single parent and a grandmother. ... Through your generosity, I will accomplish one of my goals and be the first person in my immediate family to earn a college degree.

— **Brenda McGinnis**

I will be graduating in May 2009 with an Associate's Degree in Nursing. It has really been an uphill struggle, but with generous contributors such as yourselves, the journey has not been impossible. ... I plan to continue my education until I have obtained a Bachelor's Degree and possibly a Master's.

— **Nichole M.Revis**

I think you would be happy with the way that your scholarship has been used. I received all A's last semester. It was

hard, especially with my little ones, but I hope to do it again this coming semester. My major is still in accounting and I'm taking it a step at a time.

— **Mary Gadd**

Words alone cannot describe how honored I was to receive this scholarship. I was the only one of my siblings to have not graduated from high school and upon receiving my GED, I am the first to attend college. I am a single mother working full time and going to school full time ... I found myself with a company that I have been with for nine years, but could not excel in because I had no degree. ... I could not have been any prouder of myself by keeping my GPA above 3.0 and successfully completing honor courses.

— **Angela French**

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Michael Upton +

Clawson Club

Ed Gingras +

Century Club

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Anniversary year classes contributed **\$9,359.**
Non-anniversary year classes contributed **\$6,946.**
WCP non-anniversary classes contributed **\$375.**

TOTAL REUNION/CLASS GIFTS \$16,800
Designated for International Scholarships (\$500)
Total for Fine Arts Scholarship \$16,180

*Gifts for Reunion 2008 supported the 2008 WCAA
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TOTAL CLUB GIFTS

Kumler Chapel Organ Fund
Peabody Scholarship
Kumler Chapel Organ Fund

\$1,185

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STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE MODIFIED CASH BASIS December 31, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash	\$42,699 (b)	\$50,159 (b)
Investments (Market Value)	\$174,254 (c)	\$245,854 (c)
Other Assets		
Antiques and Art	\$39,875	\$39,750
Gift Shop Inventory	\$13,825	\$11,568
Total Other Assets	<u>\$53,700</u>	<u>\$51,318</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$270,653</u>	<u>\$347,331</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Sales Tax Payable	\$110	\$24
Fund Balance	\$270,543	\$347,307
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$270,653</u>	<u>\$347,331</u>

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCE MODIFIED CASH BASIS Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007

REVENUES	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Alumnae Giving:		
Annual Fund Gifts	\$72,828	\$84,720
Reunion Gifts	\$15,960	\$21,751
Endowment Gifts	\$226,331 (c)	\$183,909 (c)
Total Giving	<u>\$315,119</u>	<u>\$290,380</u>
Other Revenues and Additions:		
Reunion Weekend Revenue	\$17,058	\$20,566 (e)
Gift Shop and Miscellaneous Income	\$2,640	\$6,387
Interest and Dividend Income	\$2,334	\$2,876
Gains (Losses) on Investment	(\$62,859)	\$21,504
Total Other Revenues and Additions	<u>(\$40,827)</u>	<u>\$51,333 (e)</u>
TOTAL REVENUES and ADDITIONS	<u>\$274,292</u>	<u>\$341,713 (e)</u>

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCE MODIFIED CASH BASIS, continued

EXPENSES	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Alumnae Relations (including <i>The Bulletin</i> , Clubs, and Annual Reunion)	\$43,996	\$41,233 (e)
Fund Raising and Stewardship Operations	\$2,837	\$546
Patterson Place Renovations	\$12,162	\$8,312
	\$8,004 (f)	\$0
Education: (d)		
Archives	\$410	\$2,995
ARISE Program	\$0	\$1,500
International Exchange Program	\$2,040	\$4,500
International Scholarships	\$2,160	\$9,549
Multicultural U.S. Citizen Scholarships	\$0	\$75
Luxembourg Program	\$2,650	\$2,500
Peabody Scholarships	\$2,450	\$14,430
Western College Program	\$1,200	\$7,500
Special Educational Programs	\$2,200	\$5,950
Total Education	<u>\$13,110 (d)</u>	<u>\$48,959 (d)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$80,109</u>	<u>\$99,050 (e)</u>
TRANSFERS		
Annual/Reunion Gifts to MU Foundation	\$44,616	\$46,227
Community Life Fund to MU Foundation	\$0	\$22,273
Endowment Gifts to MU Foundation	\$226,331 (c)	\$183,909 (c)
TOTAL TRANSFERS	<u>\$270,947</u>	<u>\$252,409</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES/TRANSFERS	<u>\$351,056</u>	<u>\$351,459 (e)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(\$76,764)	(\$9,746)
Fund Balance Beginning of the Year	<u>\$347,307</u>	<u>\$357,053</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$270,543</u>	<u>\$347,307</u>

(a) The above Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance - Modified Cash Basis and Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Fund Balance - Modified Cash Basis were prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting. Assets and liabilities are recorded and revenues and expenses are recognized on the cash basis, modified for sales tax payable and unrealized gains and losses from investments.

(b) Cash of \$39,464 is held by Miami University for the benefit of the WCAA.

(c) WCAA Investments and WCAA Endowment Accounts are held by the Miami University Foundation for the benefit of the WCAA.

(d) Education expenses listed are from Annual Fund gifts only. They are supplemented by distributions from WCAA Endowment Funds as available.

(e) The 2007 figures have been restated to detail components of Alumnae Relations revenue and expense.

(f) Funded by revenues from the use of Patterson Place.

In addition to the above figures, for fiscal year 2007-2008, Miami University provided allotments of \$195,407 for salaries and benefits, publications, student wages and other operational expenses. Miami University also maintains the interior and exterior of Patterson Place and grounds.



Alumnae Scholarships

Chelsee Robertson
Susan Elizabeth Durr
Jensen Kober Henry
Richard Yeager

Donor-Designated Awards/Scholarships

Catharine A. Gerber Technology Award
Greg Cook
Hieronymus Family Scholarship
Terri L Boggess
Harriet Gebhart Hieronymus Scholarship
Justin Andrew Griffin
Matthew Gaffney

International Exchange/

Study Abroad Scholarships

Florence Prendergast Cockerell Scholarship
Cayla Adams (Ireland)
Audree Riddle (Rome)
Laura Flamm (South Africa)
Koons Family Scholarship
Timothy Horton (Denmark)
Samuel Jacobson (Austria)
Luxembourg Scholarship
Megan Miller (Luxembourg)

Susan Ray Woodworth Luxembourg Scholarship
Renee Hemmelgarn (Luxembourg)
Lois Wiggins Newman Scholarship
Audree Riddle (Rome)
Megan Sabal (Australia)
Grace Osgood Scholarship
Renee Hemmelgarn (Luxembourg)
Joseph Thoms & Sarah Darnall Resor Schp.
Lisa Dailey (Australia)

Samuel Jacobson (Austria)
Alex Libengood (Ghana)
Colleen Payne (Tibet)
Rowena Snyder Scholarship
Nathan Devore (Tibet)
Ashley Colley (England)
Whitney Graham (England)
Edith H. von Tacky Scholarship
Carrie Almasi (Morocco)
Elizabeth Garrett India)
Joshua Hamm (India)
Allison Harnack (India)
Emily Johnson (South Africa)
Anna Palguta (Jordan)

Lydia Zimmerman Scholarship
Audree Riddle (Rome)
General International Exchange/
Study Abroad Scholarships
Sara Bernstein (Czech Republic)
Erika Luth (Czech Republic)
Sudie Niesen (Czech Republic)

Memorial Scholarships

Sarah Stocum
Nils Tracy

Multicultural Scholarships: International

Grace Chu Scholarship
Priyanka Chandrasekaran (India)
Emiddio V. Hadjilyra (Cyprus)
Ana Machado Lima (Brazil)
Mboya Family Scholarship
Sheryl Kavetza (Kenya)
General Multicultural Scholarship: Intl
Geethanga de Silva (Sri Lanka)

2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients

Manuela J. Valencia (Colombia)

Multicultural Scholarships: U.S. Resident

R/L/V Scholarship
Meredith Cole
Sean Connor
Jonathon R Dreeze
Krishna Dutt
Jenny Lily Hua
Saad Hussain
Nyssa Luise Kim
Alan Leatherman
Laura Miller
Michelle Sloneker
Brian Stincer
Nick Yasutake
General Multicultural Scholarship: U.S. Resident
Elizabeth Bissell
Jacqueline Ysolde Grody
Leah Toledo
Nicole Sharp
Charles Stephens
Trevor Yamada

Peabody Scholarships

Fritzi Mueller Beckett Scholarship
Bryan Allen
Marian F. Hawk Scholarship
Patricia Miles
Teresa Mitchell
Christel Zaijbel
Malcolm D. Hill Scholarship
Peggy McCracken

Phyllis Hoyt Scholarship
Megan Murdoch
Krystal Snowden
Kelly Spurlock
Teresa Swartzell
Tyffany Davis
Rachel Riggs

Barbara Frazey Kenney Scholarship
Mary West Liggitt Scholarship
Angalina Madaffari
Stephanie Nixon
Jennifer Skirvin

E. Ramona Newton Manners Scholarship
Jerrold Bley
Helen Kaslo Osgood Scholarship
Jennifer Ball
Debra Garner

Rowena Snyder Scholarship
Doug Cheek
Angela French
Mary Gadd
Lou Gibbs
Nichole Revis

General Peabody Scholarship
Leigh Brock

Bettina Corrigan
Julie Harmeyer
Brenda McGinnis
Autumn Meade
Georgina Ntow
Kimberly Rogers

Trustee Scholarship
Keri Agriesti

To learn more about creating a named scholarship, please call WCAA Director Judy Waldron at 513-529-4400.

Alumnae Scholarships Awarded to an outstanding incoming student enrolled in the Liberal Arts or Fine Arts. Full scholarship, based on merit, then financial need, renewable for four years.

International Exchange Scholarships Awarded to undergraduate students in international exchange/study programs. One-time partial scholarships, based on merit and financial need.

Multicultural Scholarships: International Awarded to incoming undergraduate international students. Full and partial scholarships based on merit, then financial need, renewable up to three years.

Peabody Scholarships Awarded to non-traditional undergraduate students (over 25) who have had their college education interrupted. One-time partial scholarships, based on merit and financial need.

Donor-designated Awards/Scholarships Criteria vary, established by creator of the scholarship/award in conjunction with the university.

Memorial Scholarships Awarded to upper-class Western Program students with need. (Funds made available through annual gifts to the WCAA in memory of classmates.)

Multicultural Scholarships: U.S. Resident Awarded to incoming undergraduate African-, Asian-, Hispanic- or Native-American U.S. residents. Partial scholarships based on merit and financial need, renewable up to three years.

Trustee Scholarships Awarded to upper-class Western Program students who exhibit exemplary leadership. One-time partial scholarships.

Ninety-two scholarships and awards totaling \$212,609 were given out in 2008-09, thanks to YOUR support!

THE NARKA NELSON CIRCLE

WESTERN'S PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY

Narka Nelson – earnest student in the Class of 1920, passionate classics professor until retirement in 1965, official college historian – made a very generous gift to Western College before the college was closed. However, since her inheritance first provided for members of her immediate family, it was many years before the gift came to Western.

Unable to thank Narka for her gift, the WCAA Board of Trustees decided to establish a special “society” to thank in advance those individuals who have made a gift that continues “the spirit of Western” on campus through a deferred giving instrument such as a charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, charitable trust, IRA, or bequest.

The individuals listed below have done just that. We are grateful to them for their foresightedness and generosity. They invite you to join them.



Lois Wiggins Newman '29
Elsie Nussmann Steiner '30
Ruth Repass Wheeler '35
Jeanne Ott Saunders '40
Ruth Bertsch Stilwell '40
Ruth Harry Hathaway '41
Beth Shirk Bevan '45
Nancy Ann Myers '46
Martha Hall Wedeman '46
Jane Alexander Durrell '47
Emily W. Greenland '47
Mary-Garnett Tillinghast '47
Dorothy Mershon Armistead '48
Julia Ashcraft Armstrong '48
Margaret McKee Seder '48
Ann Niehaus Tobias '50
Marjorie Grahn Winter '50
Grete Stern Wrede '51
Jo Ann Fley '52
Elizabeth Sipe Gerber '52
Catherine Ross Loveland '52
Sue Off Schroepe '52
Gloria Wilson Sylvester '52
Betty Jean Wright '52
Mary Culver Daniels '53
Sandra Franz Barnes '54
Miriam Chesslin '54
Lucy Liggett '54
Maria Van Waveren Smit '54

Sandra Grimes Abouzeid-Surico '57
Lois Rehm Koch '57
Mary Ann Fichtner Mountain '57
Rosa Ewing Goldman '58
Caroline Kawallek Manildi '58
Ann Ferguson Zeigler '59
Mary DeJong Obuchowski '61
Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61
Susan Berryhill Hill '63
Joan Kowalski Jordan '63
Lynne Drucker Albukerk '64
Faith A. Evans '64
Yvette Small Hohler '64
Patricia Spokes Snowden '64
Faith W. Barrington '65
Ann E. Walton '66
Patricia A. Jayson '68
Barbara Williamson Wentz '68
Mary Kelly Felice '70
Ann M. Powell '73
Christine Moranda '74
Elizabeth Salt '74
Lorna Jordan '81
Ann Rosenfield '83
Phyllis Hoyt FF
Curtis W. Ellison HA
Burton and Diane Kaufman FF, HA
David A. Rook and Svetlana Beros Rook FR
Judy Kalbfus Waldron FR

If you have included the WCAA in your deferred giving plans and your name is not listed or if you wish to learn more about becoming a member of the Narka Nelson Circle to help continue the legacy of Western College, please contact Judy Waldron, WCAA Director. (513) 529-4400, e-mail: waldrojk@muohio.edu

IMPORTANT REMINDER: MAKE SURE BENEFICIARY IS
THE WESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, INC., NOT WESTERN COLLEGE.

pect all of us are. I worry about my Juliane in NYC, whose career as an investor relations and new business strategy guru for biotech firms is pretty rocky right now ... She's having to help several figure out how to shut down active operations while not losing the promising scientific possibilities they have been pursuing. It's very sad. All any of us can do at this point is hunker down and pray. All big trip plans are canceled. The MD/DC/VA area club had a very small (about 14, if my memory — always dicey these days — serves me) reunion in May, with about 50-50 WC and WCP alums in attendance." Pat plans to attend our 45th Reunion and states, "only a major emergency could keep me away!"

Lynne Drucker Albukerk and Jak went to the mini East Coast reunion in New Jersey in January and stayed over with **Terry Woods-Smith Torres** and her husband, Hernando ("Jak gave away the bride when they married, decades ago"). "It was fun to be with the enthusiastic 'new' version of Western at Miami alumni. They were more in the avant garde than we '60s women. We all agreed the experiment failed due to lack of promotion in recruiting by Miami. As part of the Bicentennial celebration, the Miami Men's Glee Club performed in concert at St. Francis Loyola Church on Park Avenue on January 9th. Excellent! (And they do welcome us at Miami events.) We arranged to do lots of things while in the city and went to MOMA before the concert. Jak will have hernia repair surgery soon. Seems like the annual surgery time for him. Last year he had an emergency tracheotomy. Family-wise, we now have four granddaughters nationwide — all fine and growing: #2 was 2 yesterday, #1 is 2 ½, the 14-month-old is walking now, and the 3-month-old turned over! We saw all at Thanksgiving."

Carolyn Moss Ford wrote, "We have had a good year despite all the woes of the economy. David has decided not to retire quite yet ... though he is enjoying his newfound skills in woodworking. He's building a gazebo at the cottage, and I guess his skills as a Chartered Accountant come into play with all the angles that an octagon presents. Melissa is still enjoying Seattle; Christopher has become a true Canadian as a lumberjack felling trees on the new expanded ski resort in Revelstoke, British Columbia; and Andrew is continuing his recovery from two concussions due to sports accidents two years ago and has been able to return for his third year at the Vet College in Guelph, Ontario. I am enjoying my retirement and, like most, find life busier than ever. I continue my volunteering at the Canadian Helen Keller Centre, working in the garden with deaf blind persons, continue to ski with a ski club, am on the executive of The Ontario Chapter of the American Ivy Society, and continue to be involved in the Garden Club of Toronto. We cottage frequently up north — two hours from Toronto — many week-

ends in the winter and most of the summer. In short, life is good!"

The **Hohler** family welcomed 2009 with high hopes for the beginning of a new, enlightened era here and abroad. Both Larry and I are Democratic Committee people, and after spending much time here on L.I. campaigning for Obama, we traveled to Erie County, Ohio, to canvass for our candidate. Now, as I write this, just days before the inauguration, I'm in a truly celebratory mood. Our usual post-retirement activities still include Habitat, Rotary, the local historical society and other civic interests (in addition to Mama care), but our current focus is the preparation for our upcoming visit to The Hope Children's Home in Meru, Kenya. We'll be leading a group of 14 on this eco-cultural safari, and will spend much of our 17 days with the children, now numbering 60, ages 4-15. We'll visit the schools they attend as well as a variety of other schools in the area and a few government agencies, as well. You may check on our progress at www.hopechildrensfund.org. We were delighted to see **Lynne** and **Jak Albukerk** at our 3rd Annual Wine Tasting fund-raising event in July and look forward to receiving their continued advice and encouragement. Daughter Nikki and Jose still enjoy their D.C. life and hope to benefit from the advent of the new administration. Cheers!

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



Editor's note: The office did not hear from Kathi this spring, so here is limited news gleaned from press releases and the Western College Alumnae: Today 2009 directory.

Sylvia Swartz received recognition recently from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) in connection with her work in the "adaptive tennis community." A longtime teaching pro at the Longfellow Club in Wayland, Massachusetts, Sylvia directs the Handi-Racket



Sylvia

Tennis program, which provides instruction for people with physical and mental challenges. The program was named the Adaptive Tennis National Community Service honoree for 2008.

Paulette Amtower Miley is a copy editor and proofreader, working at home (in Chesnee, South Carolina) and loving it! Widowed, since the death in 2001 of her second husband, she has become "reacquainted with a wonderful man whom I dated briefly when I was 20 ... wish us luck!"

Lesley Moore Anderson lives in Flagler County, Florida — retired from her job with the local school district, but still owner of the four retail hardware stores she decided to keep when her husband of 21 years died in 1995. Their daughter is now married, has two sons and lives two hours away; their son, after serving in the Marines, is now a freelance cowboy in Colorado.

Artist/designer **Lusandre Lee Chaudruc** also buys, fixes up, and sells or rents houses. This spring she had four art shows ongoing at various venues, with rotating pieces. See: www.LusandreLeeChaudruc.com.

Since the early '70s, **Karen Lee De Montmorency** has lived in West Palm Beach, Florida, where she is a bookkeeper for a construction company.

Brenda Grant Davis retired from teaching in the White Plains, New York, public schools and entered the Master of Divinity program in Missions at Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, New York, in August 2007. She expects to complete her degree in May 2010.

After a long and rewarding career in business, **Barbara Trickey Lampe** settled into "just" two jobs: owner of a workout consulting business and (for the last four years) vice president-finance of Weyerbacher Brewing Co., a flourishing Easton, Pennsylvania, microbrewery. Lampes' older son, Chris, is production manager at the brewery; younger son, Josh, has his own web design business. Barbara and husband Dick love spending time at their cottage on Keuka Lake in upstate New York.

Janet Woodruff Dow is retired from her private therapy practice and now lives with her husband, an artist, in Tucson. They've "traveled moderately" and are "very happy."

Kathi Ramsey Bumblis '66
221 S. Springer Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94024
bumblis@netzero.com



Dear Classmates, by now you've seen the photo in the fall *Bulletin* of our class at our 40th Reunion last June. (**Nel Ware** was missing from that photo as she had to leave on



Patterson Place visitors Betsy Bacon Morgan and husband Porter

Saturday afternoon and **Cece Gilkes Liu** didn't make it for the photo.) I hope you also noticed the color photos in the center section: centerfold photos! Who would have guessed ... There are more photos on the website at www.muohio.edu/wcaa (click on 2008 Reunion). You'll notice that, as usual, Cece brought us adornments; we all stood out with colorful flowers in our hair! Surely the "class that leads the way." It was a wonderful Reunion — we all had a great time, and were especially happy to have a few folks we hadn't seen for a while. Also notice mention in the fall *Bulletin* of **Leslie Davis Yamada**, p. 40, and **Vesta Sedler**, p. 41.

The year 2008 began very sadly for our family, as my sister, **Gretchen (Blake Roy) '71**, lost her husband very suddenly in January. She and her daughters have had a rough time, but are doing well. In March, we four "girls" went to visit Dad and our stepmother in North Carolina. In August, Bert and I went to Mytilene (Lesbos) to stay with **Sappho Haralambous '70**, her mother and daughter at Sappho's summer home. It was heavenly, of course! Then we went on to the Greek part of Cyprus for a week and finished our trip in Athens — with a lunar eclipse viewed from the top of the Acropolis on our last night. That was an evening we won't soon forget. In October, Bert, Gretchen and I went to celebrate Dad's 94th birthday — he's going strong.

Deborah Allen Perry is now in her 13th year of teaching at a classical Christian school in Memphis, Tennessee. She teaches American lit, classical lit and British lit. She says she has no retirement plans because it is too costly! She has two granddaughters, Greta (4) and Elsa (1). They live in New York, near where Deborah lived for 25 years, working for *National Review* magazine and dabbling in real estate while rearing her two daughters, Brett and Ann. Deborah says life has certainly been interesting, and she marvels at all our classmates have accomplished.

Betsy Bacon Morgan, who was in our class freshman year, stopped by Patterson Place with her husband, Porter, last August. They

were on their way to Columbus and Betsy wanted to show Porter our campus, which she hadn't visited for 40 years, since she went back for a visit during spring break of our senior year.

Barb Brannen Patrick continues to work with developmentally disabled adults, helping them to stay in their apartments, challenging work in these economic times. Jennifer and CJ are still in the Air Force. After their graduation from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and Jen's promotion, they went back to Arlington, Virginia, where they are both assigned to the Pentagon. She sees them and Landon several times a year. An amazing Down's child, he is doing everything a normal 2-year-old would do although he is still working on his verbal skills. As he knows over 350 ASL signs, communicating is not a problem. Jonathan continues to work for one of the Sendiks food market chains, doing just about everything.

Carolyn Carlson Pencek sent her family's Christmas card with photos of Carolyn and Rich, as well as a wedding photo including their daughter, Mallory, son, Richard, daughter-in-law, Kate, from December 2007. Last year Carolyn had a trip to Brazil and the Amazon with her mother. She says she is her mother's traveling companion and her husband's fishing buddy. Carolyn's sister gave her a print from an estate sale of Peabody Hall dated '97 signed Watts or Watis. Does anyone know anything about this print? *[Editor's note: The print is a digital rendering of a photograph of Peabody after the 1996 renovation, done by Linda Watts '73.]* Carolyn wanted to come to the Reunion, but her husband had some health problems, and it was her birthday that weekend. Next time, Carolyn!



Carolyn, in Brazil

Sandy Chanis finished a very productive year as president of the board of a newly expanded museum near her home: The Oceanside Museum of Art, which, at 33,000 square feet, is now the second largest in San Diego County. Sandy now has three grandsons. Her son-in-law returned safely from Afghanistan and



New work from Sandy

her oldest daughter graduated with honors from law school. She had an art show, and completed two sculptures between December 24 and January 1! Sandy says that life is "absolutely marvelous". Check out her website at www.chanisl.com.

Margie Custer Bowles and Bob welcomed their second grandchild and were expecting their third at the beginning of 2009. Daughter Amber is the mother of little Cadence, born in July 2008. Connor and the new baby live in San Francisco. Nana Margie gets to spend time with them as she retired in June and both families live fairly close. Bob retired in August, so they are able to travel more now. They didn't make it to Greece this summer because the Presbyterian General Assembly was in San Jose, California, in June, but they did go to New Hampshire and Maine at the end of September to see the fall colors and Christa's family. They bought lobsters right on the dock directly from the lobstermen. Wow!

Kitsy Dunlop wrote that until the second week of January, the weather in Jacksonville was delightful. She mentions that because she and Greg would like to sell their "great, modest home to any Northerner ready to make the move and get away from the treacherous ice and snow." Kitsy and Greg are anxious to move to their little ranch in Cedar Key, Florida, where they can ride their horses. Kitsy says that "reuning with Western College friends is the *most* fun ever." I heartily agree!

Kathy Evans Findley and Jim welcomed all their family for Christmas. The four Findleys departed on a southern Caribbean cruise in January to celebrate Kathy and Jim's 40th wedding anniversary. Kathy continued as a Gray Lady volunteer at their local hospital. Son James is now a second year doctoral student in history at UNC Greensboro. In July, Kathy babysat granddaughter Sophie (4) while Kate ran the county fair and rodeo. Kate's husband continues his year-long unaccompanied assignment in Korea, ending in February 2009. The Findley travels included a wedding, a memorial service in D.C., weekends at the beach and a jaunt to Augusta, GA. Jim is still doing financial planning and teaching. Kathy's welcome mat is always out for us!

Susan Fackler Sykes sent a quick note that she enjoyed seeing our Reunion photos and wishes she'd been able to attend.

Jeanne Flowers Foster wrote that she purchased a new condo in St. Louis. Her grandchildren light up her life. Two of them each had a weekend with Grandma sans siblings or parents. She also visited kids and grandkids, as well as having visits from them. (I couldn't keep them all straight!) Business took her to South Dakota, Alabama and Washington, D.C. In July, she went to Kentucky to reconnect with several of her Flow-

ers first cousins, most of whom she hadn't seen since she was a teenager. In September, she had a weekend with two high school friends at the Lake Erie Islands. Jeanne was expecting everyone for Christmas, weather permitting.

Jennifer French Sponsler had a year of family vacations and weddings. In May 2008, her brother, his three daughters and Jennifer met in Atlanta for the graduation of his oldest grandson from the University of Georgia. In July, they all flew to Las Vegas for four days to try their luck in the casinos, dine in some wonderful restaurants, and attend a few shows, among them a fabulous performance of *Phantom*. Then they went to Utah for the wedding of one of her brother's granddaughters. Labor Day weekend was spent on Jekyll Island, Georgia. In October, Jennifer joined other family members on a fascinating cruise aboard a stern-wheeler along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. She wishes all of us a peaceful, happy 2009.

Edie Gower retired as executive director of Literacy, USA, a national network of literacy coalitions, to renovate a lovely old house on the waterfront, built in 1910 (old for Texas), in the little coastal town of Palacios, 100 miles southwest of Houston, where they had lived on weekends since 1997. The house has a Texas historical marker as the site of the first private school in the county with emphasis on music and the arts, which Edie loves! It had been vacant and calling out to her for years, saying it wanted to be a bed and breakfast. She thought it would take three to six months to fix it up, but it took two years! They opened on Valentine's Day, 2008. She says she has met fascinating people and that she very much enjoys helping to facilitate their relaxing and taking some good care of themselves. She would love to see any Western folk. The website is www.thepeacefulpelican.com.

Susan Hackley had a wonderful time reconnecting recently with **Pamela Knowles '70** in NYC. She manages and sings at a terrific restaurant, Pisticci's. Susan sees **Prue Hay '69** often — she's doing great selling real estate in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Susan continues her work as managing director of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, and as chair of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, an organization dedicated to preventing violent conflict in the world: www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org.

Jill Hallett Levis and Bob had a 16-day holiday to Santa Barbara and LA during their UVM winter break. Their daughter, Hannah, still lives in Santa Barbara, and they visited with **Nancy Niver** and her friend, David, in LA. Jill and Nancy had a mini reunion at Jill's home in Vermont last June, when they

shared a wonderful lunch with former "Kenyonite" and dear friend, Bill Brooks, who now lives in Vermont. Jill and Bob's son, Tim, was married on Southport Island, near Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on September 13, 2008. They had a perfect late summer day for the ceremony on the ocean — a wonderful celebration. Jill is beginning her last semester at UVM and looks forward to a less hectic schedule next summer.

Faith Heller Willinger had an article in the January issue of *Gourmet* magazine about her favorite markets, restaurants and places to stay in Palermo and in Licata on the southern coast. It made me want to buy tickets and take off ASAP.

Pat Jayson sent a very short e-mail. She had a great time at our Reunion, as did we all! Her only regret was that the weekend didn't last longer. She had a wonderful visit with **Jill Hallett Levis** when she and Bob stopped by in August.

Phyllis Jennings Allinson sent a note over the summer. She hesitated to include herself because she didn't graduate with us. Please let everyone know that we welcome all who were in our class, not just graduates (see **Betsy Bacon's** note above). Phyllis completed her undergrad at the University of Maryland, and received an M.A. in Counseling Psychology in 1986. She is a licensed M.F.T. (that's marriage and family therapist) in California and has a private practice. E-mail: phyllinson@ixpres.com.

Anita "Charlie" Jones Lamothe has survived five years since her heart transplant, about which she is understandably overjoyed. She is secretary and newsletter editor for their Thunderbird Club and treasurer for the San Antonio Garden Center, Inc., an umbrella organization for nearly 30 area garden clubs. These jobs, in addition to being seen by about 15 doctors who still follow her case, take up a lot of her time. Charlie's husband, Richard, and she will celebrate their 42nd anniversary this August. They have each saved the other's life, literally: she with her heart trouble, and he with melanoma on his spine. They took their first cruise, to the Bahamas, in January. Their children, Roland and Nikki, are grown and have produced three granddaughters.

Brenda Lee Bell started a new job in July and so did her daughter. So, Brenda and Brian are empty nesters for the second time. (Brenda notes that statistically there will be another move home before the final move out.) Brenda's new position involves close work with the head of school as "chief of staff." She interacts with everyone in the school community while managing an endless variety of projects. From researching Ohio's legislative stance on independent



The beautiful granddaughters of Anita "Charlie" Jones Lamothe

schools to consulting about what type of repair might be best for a missing backflow preventer, she learns something new every day. She loved seeing everyone at our Reunion last June and wore her reunion tie-dyed t-shirt at College Day at school. She hopes more of us make it next time.

Miho Matsuda Abedini had sad news. Her daughter and son-in-law had a stillborn second child, her husband had prostate cancer surgery in Canada, and her sister had ovarian cancer surgery in Japan. It has meant that Miho has been doing a lot of traveling. We wish you a better 2009, Miho.

Chako Matsumoto Era wrote that she visited western India, including Mumbai, in February. She couldn't imagine that the Taj Mahal Hotel burned. In June, she went to Hungary with a very good Hungarian guide who knew a lot of history and spoke perfect Japanese. Her husband, Koh, is still teaching at night school in Tokyo. (I guess he doesn't like retirement!) Their son, Kohtarō, who lives in New York, took four hours and 22 minutes to complete the New York marathon; he was happy to be able to run 42.19 km. Sae, Kohtarō's wife, visited Chako and Koh in November, during her annual visit to her parents. Daughter Sumiko, M.D., is too busy to visit them because Japanese are still suffering from a shortage of obstetricians.

Cece Peabody's family is good. She and Ed are happy and healthy. Ed won a few bass fishing tournaments last summer, and has made great friends. Between fishing, golfing and cooking there's never a dull moment. Cece's association management business is growing; she is also teaching and writing about meeting and event planning management. Patrick has less than a year to complete his master's in sports management. His wife, April, is working on her second master's in library science with an emphasis on Information technology. Cece wants to take them to Hawaii this year before any kids come. Ed has never been, so it will be a new adventure. Cece sends hugs to all of us and says if we're ever in New Jersey and want to meet, to call her on her cell: 201-704-6635.

Receive our e-newsletter . . . send your e-mail address to wcaa@muohio.edu



The family of Carol Raimondi Meyers '68

Lawanda Powell Randall and I have had a few e-mails back and forth. She was very happy to see the photos of our Reunion and loved the tie-dyed t-shirts. She hopes to make it to a Reunion soon.

Karen Prah Voris wrote that their 2008 flew by. Their first grandchild, Lily Charlotte, was born in Washington, D.C. in May. Two days later Karen's dad passed away at age 91. "Truly the cycle of life." Her mom, at age 92, is doing well and was planning a trip to visit Karen and John in Arizona in January. Karen and John have traveled many times to Indy to visit their moms and a "Prah Hurrah" family reunion. In addition they traveled to see Lily in D.C., Cornwall and London to see daughter Amy, and to the Cascades and Montana to hike. Karen has great optimism for our country for 2009 with new leaders and new ideas.

Carol Raimondi Meyers and Jeff are going to be grandparents at the end of March. Russ and Heather bought a new house in Pine Richland and soon thereafter learned that they are expecting a boy. Andy is still with Comcast as a technical analyst in Philadelphia, working with the Blackberries of the company. Becky and Dana also bought a house, in Shaler, which required a lot of work. They were married on June 21 in a garden ceremony, with family and friends from all over the U.S. Then Becky was offered a new job as an art teacher at Fox Chapel Area School District, where she went to school. Carol and Jeff are fine, trying to deal with all the new phases of their lives.

Patty Robins Flint Lacey had a great year with a trip to South Africa in January and February; two driving trips to Montana in May and October; and a visit to Phoenix in September and November. She is continuing to work at Mesa Verde National Park and at the Anasazi Heritage Center Museum. In addition, she's started working on a video on pottery in southwest Colorado. She was the treasurer for a friend's county commissioner campaign and somehow managed to file her reports electronically with the Colorado Secretary of State. She's joined the Four Corners Community Band playing the "bells" that are like a xylophone. Her new

place in Cortez is just right for her and she's enjoyed walking all over town to do her chores, visit the library and attend church to sing in the choir.

Meike Trommsdorff, who was at the 1967 reunion, broke her shoulder! She and I have been e-mailing since June of 1967, and would love to have a visit in Germany.

Ella Weingarten Iams came to our Reunion for the first time in a while — it was great

to see her! She wrote that she was very happy to renew friendships and experience Western again. Their son, Joel, is a captain in the U.S. Marines stationed at the Pentagon. He attends graduate school in the evenings. Their daughter, Sarah, is at Cornell working on a Ph.D. in applied math. Ella and Howard both still work, and she did a lot of volunteer work in the fall for the presidential campaign.

Susie Williams Oblinger wrote, and I quote: "It was so much fun seeing classmates this past June at Reunion. We had a great time. I sold my old farmhouse last March and now live in a condo in Germantown. I love it! It is brand new, so I was able to make choices about decorating. There is just enough yard to garden a little, but not mow a lot! I am still teaching sixth grade reading/language arts in Germantown and still enjoy it. I adore seeing my 3-year-old granddaughter, Kaitlin. She lights up our lives. Please keep in touch, everyone."

Barbara Williamson Wentz had their whole family for Christmas. Working on their goal to see all 50 states, Barbara and Erv visited Utah last year and were delighted with the natural beauty. They also traveled to Minneapolis to visit Michael and his family for Memorial Day. Barbara and Erv are fortunate to have Jennifer and her family so close. That gives Granny a day with Cady, now 3, and time with Grayson, age 8, when he is off school. Erv is building a train layout in their lower level, which he and Grayson enjoy. Their oldest granddaughter, Gaby, age 12 visited from Minneapolis for a week during the summer. Barbara continues working in adoptions part-time at Catholic Charities. Erv manages and does the maintenance at the apartment buildings they own, as well as doing mission work to rebuild homes in flooded parts of Iowa.

Thanks for all your news and notes. I always enjoy receiving your e-mails and blue cards, and feel privileged to write up these notes for you. One suggestion: If you send me your holiday letter, please give me a little more info. I don't necessarily know if "Harvey" is a son, son-in-law, significant other, or ??? The recipients of your annual let-

ters certainly do, but I may not! It would be very helpful when I'm writing up the notes. Also, if you would like anyone's address, phone, or e-mail, contact me at e-mail address below. Ditto for a copy of Faith's article. Remember that there will be a Reunion in June.

Susan Blake Rowland '68
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One day long ago, at the tail end of our freshman year, to be precise, several of us watched from the third floor New Dorm smoker as alums piled out of their cars for Alumnae Weekend 1967. How strange, we remarked, that all these "older women" would want to come back here — to Oxford and Western, to wax nostalgic about their college days. It all seemed very quaint, and we could scarcely imagine doing it ourselves.

Well, as they say, what goes around comes around. Here we are on the eve of our 40th. Some of us have been back to Western, some of us more than a few times. Some of us never returned. The idea of returning for the 40th has the same surreal sense as turning 60, which I personally have found daunting. I have no idea how I got to be this old. It doesn't feel exactly like yesterday since we left Western, but it seems pretty close.

Most of you are holding up pretty well. **Susan Vitucci's** Clothespin Repertory Theatre is hard at work on *Small Fish*, the latest epic puppet operetta starring the Chicken Little-like puppet, La Pulcina Piccola. Development has been provided by New York Theatre Workshop and 1812 Productions as well as generous donors and loyal artists. Susan currently seeks a workshop opportunity to bring *Small Fish* to the stage. She continues her Junk Drawer Drama Workshops for colleges, universities and prep schools where students create theater using common objects.

Sherry Glickman wrote, "I just loved being at the 35th Reunion and hope to attend the 20th in 2010. My husband, Michael Berkowitz, had a blast and could really see what I loved about Western. We still live in Nyack, New York, and our daughter has seemed to settle in my hometown, Boston. She is in graduate school at Boston College for an M.S.W. and our son is graduating next Saturday from SUNY Plattsburgh and what he will do afterwards who knows? I am still working for the same agency I have been with for 33 years: Rockland County Depart-



Cindie Moulton and husband Dick

ment of Mental Health. I represent mental health services for children in all the various collaboratives we have in our county. It's a great job and I have no thoughts of retiring though my husband is retiring from his college professor job this May. I would love to hear from **Malo, Alice Swilley** and **Leslie Boyer. Jennifer Ferdinand**, who was at Western for two years, and I are still in touch but I have lost touch with everyone else. I am really looking forward to reading the *Bulletin* and hearing about the comings and goings of the class of 1970. My e-mail address is Sherrilah@optonline.net

I also heard from **Lucy Boyle**: "I work part time doing accounting work for a town planning department, which was a former military base in Massachusetts. I spend more time doing volunteer work: accounting for various nonprofits and tutoring math in third and fifth grade. My favorite students are the accelerated ones, with whom I do "challenge math." I also continue to play doubles tennis and ski. I can't believe we are all so old and that some friends have died already." Glad I'm not alone in thinking 60 is alarming. You can cheer up Lucy at lucy.boyle@verizon.net.

Cindie Moulton and husband Dick took a Mediterranean cruise, and pre-cruise tour in Italy, celebrating their 27th wedding anniversary. Included ports were Sorrento, Malta, Tunisia, Barcelona, Sete (France), Marseilles, Monte Carlo, Portofino, Livorno, and Rome. Cindie enjoys volunteering for Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), happy to support such an important local charity, especially now with job loss and financial difficulties in the community. Dick is still cooking up a storm, going to the gym, doing yard work, and helping his brothers with their LLC. After 13 months with T. Rowe Price, daughter Rachel moved to Cardinal Technologies, Inc. supporting Lockheed Martin on the United Kingdom Census Project. She is enjoying living in historical Ellicott City, Maryland, and enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, Phil, and some weekends at home in Virginia.

Dee Newell Bank-Bright writes, "We are finally empty nesters. Mark entered college this year. Matt finished law school and is studying for the bar. Mary plans to attend medical school in the fall of 2009. Todd has reentered college at Akron University. Al is

still enjoying retirement. We enjoy international travel especially to Italy every other year for the Venice Biennale. Still maintain contact with **Lolly McDavid, Jessica Lee, and Linda Watson**. Retirement may never be in the picture."

I called **Pam Watts Coates** to catch up. She and Ted are still working in the same fields and daughter Katy has enrolled at IV Tech studying elementary education for challenged youngsters. Older daughter Ellie is now a supervisor with a company providing plants and greenery in corporate settings. Everyone is well in Indy.

Nancy Tuan Yang Hsiung got to make a trip to Virginia with son Kurt to visit her brothers and her parents' graves. She also visited the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and thought it awesome. She wishes everyone health in 2009.

Not much new in Denver. Retirement not on our radar screen here, either. Plan to celebrate my 60th snorkeling the Barrier Reef. But back to that Reunion thing: Why don't we think about this for next year? It is a year-long celebration of the Alumnae Association's 35th and could be a great opportunity to catch up and, dare I say it, wax nostalgic about the good old days at Western. Think about it and I'll send an e-mail in the fall to gauge interest. Cheers, everybody.

Kelly Felice '70
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noaprof@aol.com



Wendy Arnold Seeley still lives in Washington Depot, Connecticut, with her husband Greg. This is her second year as principal of a PK-2 grade school of about 680 students and 100 staff members. Each day holds a new surprise, but it is difficult to be unhappy when you are with 4- to 7-year-olds, who love to hug you and color pictures for you. Greg continues to build his Craters and Freighters business. Their son, Bryan, turned 30 this year, and continues to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney in Washington, DC.

Karen Rice King: I am still living in Lafayette in Boulder County, Colorado. After completing more training, I am now teaching Core Shamanism at a ranch up in the mountains, and beginning workshops in dowsing, earth acupuncture and journeying on the front range. I absolutely love my life! Even with the teaching, I am working on people's properties as well as seeing clients one-on-one. I am also a minister, so I may lead cer-

emonies for families. I have been with my partner for 23 years and we are managing to have some fun even with all this work! In 2008, I received a scholarship to go to Scotland for Beltaine, the original May Day, and completed the "fire-walking ceremony" with about 80 folks at the base of Ben Laden (the Mountain of Light). While over there, I visited Glastonbury, England and Amsterdam. I am trying to go back to Scotland to teach.

As for me ... my big news is that I am looking forward to being a grandmother in July! Daughter Kelly and husband Beau Gibson are expecting their first child in July. They are in LA 'til May, where Beau is appearing in several LA Opera productions. They will probably deliver back in Houston, which is their home base for now. John and I are still in Kentucky and will stay here until John retires, which could be any time now. Our son, Dan, is in Lexington and has embarked on a new endeavor as a freelance website builder. We are all well and I hope to hear from more '72 graduates this year.

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Celebrating 35 years!

Can you believe that our 35th Reunion is coming up this June? Where have the years gone since we were all students at Western? I hope that you will make plans to attend our Reunion, which will be held from June 19-21, 2009, on the Western campus in Oxford. Let's have a big turnout and have fun together reminiscing and catching up on what we all are doing now.

Susan Anderson from Succasunna, New Jersey, wrote that she is hoping to attend the Reunion. She has worked at Verizon Communications for over 36 years now and has the position of retiree health care benefits coordinator. She lives in her family homestead in Succasunna, which dates back to 1853. Besides her job, she is active in her church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the United Way of Morris County, New Jersey. At the end of September 2008, she attended the wedding of the daughter of **Heidi Hilfinger '72** in Syracuse, New York.

Kathy Albright Willowood and partner Bill Wilge have been together for four years and have what Kathy describes as a lovely small house with a nice yard for gardening in Lafayette, Indiana. Kathy's dog, Clio, is also



Kathy Albright Willowoode and partner Bill Wilge

part of the household. Her daughter, Elaine, attends Purdue University, studying early childhood development. Kathy worked for 20 years in health food stores in the Lafayette area, but now has her own business as a nutritional counselor. She says, "It's exciting to be in this process. I am ... teaching classes on health and nutrition and herbs at a local community center. I believe there is a great need for people to start taking more responsibility for their health." Kathy is hoping to attend our 35th Reunion in June.

Sheila Colligan Sobel lives in Beverly Hills, California, and has been working at Warner Brothers for 13 years now. Her household includes her husband, Michael, their dog, Clarence, and three cats. Michael's children, Jill and Jan, and grandchildren Jackson (7) and Ava (4) are doing well.

Last year **Mary Miller Croxton** and husband Jack lived in the Russian town of Nizhny Novgorod for seven months, as Jack had a Fulbright grant to do research in Russia. While they were there, they were able to visit major Russian cities such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kazan. They also visited Latvia, Estonia, and some of the Scandinavian countries. Mary visits Oxford several times a year because her sister **Kitty (Miller Bomholt)** '75 still lives near Oxford.

Chris Moranda reports that her job at OhioHealth continues to help her improve her disability management skills. She was recognized both in the OhioHealth organization and in the community during 2008 for her staff's work in job training and retention for injured workers and for her work in raising awareness of the benefits of hiring and training people with disabilities. She is now the second vice-president and chair of the Employment Committee for the Governor's Council on People With Disabilities.

Chris's partner, Jane Russell, is currently developing a home-based business with a leadership development group called TEAM. She is also an independent distributor for Mona Vie, a company that offers wellness drinks containing the acai berry. Chris and Jane made trips to California and Florida to celebrate family birthdays during the summer of 2008 and spent a week on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Is-

lands in September 2008, where they attended a friend's wedding.

Holly Wright Johnson says that the highlight of 2008 for her husband Bruce and herself was representing the Boy Scouts of America at the European Sea Scouting Conference in Dublin, Ireland. This is the third Sea Scouting conference that Holly and Bruce have attended. The previous ones were in Portugal and Finland. Holly says, "We learned a great deal and had a lot of fun sharing the excitement of American Sea Scouting with our European friends." Another highlight for the Johnsons in 2008 was seeing the Philadelphia Phillies win the World Series in baseball.

Holly marked her 25th year of working at the Howard County (Maryland) Library in January 2008. She has implemented many workflow changes within her department with the goal of getting new library materials to the customers as quickly as possible. Bruce works at the Library of Congress and has been focusing on beginning the work of migrating his library product, called Cataloger's Desktop, to a new generation of search technology. Johnsons' son, Bryn, is a journeyman electrician and systems specialist with Siemens. Their daughter, Cristyn, is the store manager of West Marine, a boating supply store in Alexandria, Virginia.

Amy Robinson Collins and her husband, Jim, took three trips during 2008: In February, to Savannah, Georgia, and the Georgia sea islands for two weeks; in April they drove the Blue Ridge Parkway and visited Williamsburg; during the summer they celebrated their 30th anniversary by returning to the place they had gone on their honeymoon, Colorado. Amy says, "We spent three weeks there hiking, taking photos, wildlife watching, and eating too much. One of the highlights was hiking 20 miles down from the summit of Pike's Peak. What a thrill!" The Collinses' son, Jeff, lost his job at a television station due to downsizing and staff reductions. While he looks for a job, he has been keeping busy with home projects and coaching a swimming team. Daughter Becca's husband, John, has been transferred to a different division of General Electric, and they moved to North Carolina in January 2009.

Janet Lucas writes that she and her partner, Sherrill Howard, were married in a civil union in New Hampshire, outdoors among the beautiful fall foliage. Janet also became a grandmother during 2008. Daughter Linda and son-in-law Brad became the parents of a baby girl, Mia. Janet's daughter Karen became engaged in March 2008 and she and her fiancé, Nathaniel, are planning a September 2009 wedding.

Mulu Girma Worku sent a beautiful Ethiopian Christmas card written in both Amharic and English. She continues to run her family's business, M. & M. Trans-Africa Trading P.L.C. in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A highlight of 2008 for me was being honored in September for 25 years of service to Otterbein College, where I continue to work as catalog librarian. I did a lot of traveling: In March, I went on a Cruise West expedition cruise to Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, and Guam, visiting several fascinating islands in the Yap island group, where people still live very traditionally; and the Nan Madol archaeological site on the island of Pohnpei, which I had studied when I was an anthropology graduate student at Ohio State University. In July, my father and I went to Switzerland for a week and stayed in a relative's condo in the charming village of Weesen, on Lake Walensee about an hour's drive southeast of Zurich. We did some short hikes in the Alps and drove around a good bit. One day we were in four countries — Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, and Germany.

In August, I went to Quebec City where I did a presentation on my work with the libraries on the island of Montserrat in the Caribbean at the IFLA international library conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other librarians from all over the world. The conference had about 4,000 attendees from 150 different countries. My final travel adventure of 2008 was a two-week Lindblad/National Geographic expedition cruise in Antarctica, which I took during Otterbein's December break. Antarctica's scenery was truly amazing with rugged snow-covered mountains, glaciers flowing down the valleys to the sea, and icebergs of all shapes and sizes. Wildlife was plentiful, and I saw whales, seals, and thousands of penguins.

One more reminder — please come to Western for our 35th Reunion in June!

Betsy Salt '74
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Mary and Jack Croxton, kayaking in the Adirondacks with grandson Timothy (2). They also have a 6-month-old granddaughter.

Cam Miller writes: "Hi ... I am an Episcopal priest and rector of Trinity Church in downtown Buffalo, New York. Trinity is a progressive and socially active congregation and I have been in my present position for 10 years. I am married to Katy Miller, who is a middle school social studies teacher and we have four children. Anne is a junior at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania; Abram is a freshman at SUNY Geneseo in New York; Sarah is a sophomore in high school and James is an eighth grader. I have been engaged in building relationships with NGOs and liberation communities in El Salvador and hope to increase my involvement there in the next few years.

"I also have been writing and seeking publication. I spent an afternoon at Western last spring when my oldest daughter was swimming in the DIII Nationals at Miami U. and recently agreed to serve on a panel this spring at Miami on the experience of being a male student at Western. [See Nota Bene,

page 47.] Please let me know if I can be of assistance with class stuff — though **Jamie Kay** is the only classmate I have been in touch with any time recently. Does anyone have a contact for **Priscilla Wren**?"

This just out in the *Western College Alumnae: Today 2009* directory:

Jeannette Jones Fukuzawa has three daughters, all married, and a granddaughter. She works with young people in the language center at Brigham Young University in Honolulu.

Rob Glass, a pastor, and **Toula Manavis Glass**, a nurse practitioner, met at Western in 1973 and have been together ever since. They were expecting their third grandson when the directory went to press. They live in Corsicana, Texas, but travel a lot — including a trip to Hawaii last year and an annual mission trip to Haiti.

After many years at many jobs in the business world, **Jackie McFall** got her master's in public administration in 2007, is currently job hunting, and would like to work for the federal government. She recommends a class called "Perspectives" for anyone looking to deepen his or her spiritual life.



Cam Miller, trying to find his way around Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, 2007

I (Dan) will be attending Reunion with my youngest daughter this time!

Dan Pickard '76
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We continue to hear from former faculty members ...

... but please keep those updates coming! We kick off our year-long 35th anniversary celebration at Reunion 2009, June 19-21, and hope to hear from all faculty and staff by Reunion 2010!

Deborah Nelson-Campbell is teaching French at Rice University, as she has been since leaving Western College in the summer of 1974 "with tears in my eyes wondering what would happen to me and my family." They are all Texans now! Daughter Holly has three children (14, 12, and 10) whom Debbie takes to France for two weeks when they turn 10. Older daughter Alissa teaches in an inner-city high school and just began work on her Ph.D. in Education. Though Debbie has published five books and numerous articles, teaching continues to be her first love. Last spring semester she taught a course on Paris, and 10 of the students went to Paris with her in May for an extra credit hour. Next year it will be a course on the Provinces of France and then two weeks in Provence; she'll also team-teach a course on the Bayeux Tapestry. Virtually every weekend, Debbie and her husband, Wayne, take off for their 16 acres in the country between Houston and Austin. She cuts brush and just enjoys being outside with their two(!) golden retrievers, while their Siamese cat catches mice.

Debbie has pleasant memories of her four years at Western: "I remember taking my little girls to nursery school on campus and then seeing them out walking with their classmates. At that time, I actually believed that most schools had child care of some

sort for their faculty. Rice will finally open a child care center this fall!"

"My years at Western were among my happiest teaching experiences. I still think of Western as the ideal small college where faculty and students constantly enlarged each other's intellectual horizons." So writes **Josephine O'Brien Schaefer**. After leaving Western in 1974, Jo spent about nine months in Ireland working on James Joyce. Daughters, Beth (then 15) and Laura (then 9) attended a Quaker school there. Then on to the University of Pittsburgh, where she taught for almost 20 years. She lives in Littleton, Colorado, now, close to Laura and her two children — "It is beautiful here and affords me lots of opportunities for walking on mountain trails." Jo stays in close touch with **Margaret Barrier** and hears from **Eleanore Vail** every Christmas.

John E. Simmons, Emeritus Professor of Biology, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, taught at Western from 1965 to 1968. After leaving Western, he worked as a research associate in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C., before going to Colorado State University to complete his doctoral studies. He remained at CSU as assistant professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics until 1972, when he accept-



Trinity College honors: John Simmons was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree in May 2008. In 1999, the college commissioned an oil portrait, which hangs in Life Sciences Center.

ed an appointment as associate professor of biology at Trinity College. Promoted to the rank of professor in 1983, he continued at Trinity until his retirement in 1997. In 1974-75, John taught physiology at Kuwait University, Kuwait; in 1982-83, he received a Fulbright to teach at Gezira University, Sudan. He writes: "My 25 years at Trinity were actually a continuation of what had begun at Western College for Women: teaching bright, interested students in physiology and endocrinology courses, and working with them in the research laboratory to learn more about the wonderful world of neuroendocrinology."

In Memoriam

Leslie A. Van Cleve '32
October 2008

Marian Gilmore Harris '34
December 2008

Doris Garner Lane '35
January 2006

Lois Frame McClintick '38
February 2009

Jean Fletcher McCasland '39
May 2004

Regina Meed Burt '40
February 2009

Marguerite Guard Scriven '40
May 2008

Marguerite Currie '41
November 2008

Maybelle Connely Hall '41
January 2009

Janet McIlvaine Hutchinson '41
January 2009

Betty Smyers Conn '42
February 2009

Ellen Bates Crockett '42
December 2008

Nancy Finney Teeters '42
July 2008

Mary Reemelin Werner '42
February 2009

Marjorie Grand-Girard Myers '43
February 2009

Nelle Sicher Frisch '46
November 2008

Anne Eberhart Kirkhoff '47
December 2008

Georgia Voorhees Mueller '47
April 2008

Cynthia McLane Neish '47
September 2006

Ann Rothermel Robinson '49
April 2008

Ilene Urban Itihar '50
January 2009

Mary Davidson Reynolds '50
August 2008

Elizabeth Wishart Colton '51
February 2009

Ardeth Anderson Holmes '52
February 2009

Ruth McCurdy Lochary '53
December 2008

Caryl Werner Graham '55
February 2006

Barbara E. Brookover '60
September 2008

Evelyn Giribaldi Jackson '60
January 2009

Pamela Odede Mboya '61
January 2009

Kim Steven Taylor '79
February 2009

Barbara L. Mathias FF
Academic Dean, 1944-46
August 2003

Bertha Boya Thompson FF
Professor of Education, 1963-74
March 2009

Correction: Ann T. Benson, whose death was reported in the Fall 2008 Bulletin, was Associate Professor of English at Western College from 1960 to 1973, not 1960-63.



*Dr. Thompson
1969 Multifaria*

In 1940, **Bertha Boya Thompson** graduated summa cum laude from Slippery Rock State Teachers College in Pennsylvania and immediately embarked on a long teaching career in public schools. She worked her way toward Oxford and began teaching junior and senior high here first at Stewart (1954-55), then Talawanda (1955-63), receiving her master's degree in history from Miami in 1954, her doctorate of education from Indiana University in 1964. Bertha joined Western's faculty in 1963 and was chair of the education department until the college closed in 1974. She taught the next four years at Miami, retired in 1978, and took up a new career as an antiques dealer and appraiser. At the time of her death at age 92, Bertha was living at The Knolls of Oxford; she is survived by her husband of 66 years, John Leslie Thompson, their daughter and son, their spouses, and two grandchildren.

Western College alumna **Annette Bevan Gallagher '69**, herself a teacher and currently on the adjunct faculty of the Department of Professional Development at Ashland University, remembered Bertha with these words: "Dr. Thompson recognized the value of recruiting the next ranks of educators from students at Western College. With our strong liberal arts base and our international perspective, she saw us as the ideal candidates to carry out necessary educational transformations. Long before these current educational slogans, Dr. Thompson was acutely aware that 'A Great Nation Needs Great Teachers' (*Phi Delta Kappan*, 2009), and she dedicated her energy and talents to prepare people to complete this vital task — 'Education: the profession that makes all the other professions possible' (*NEA Today*, January 2009)."

The Western Program

Greetings from Peabody Hall! As you read these words, the academic year is winding up, but as I write them, we are still in the thick of a busy semester, as seniors scramble to draft their senior projects, juniors begin to conceptualize them, and faculty and staff struggle to keep up. By the time some of you see us in the late spring and early summer, we will all have accomplished a lot and be the better for it.



Corbett

One of our collective accomplishments this year has been finalizing the make-up of the new Western faculty, who are already hard at work on developing the curriculum, a process we expect to complete during the next academic year. This team of highly motivated and enthusiastic faculty includes folks from around the university — including the College of Arts and Science, the School of Education, Health and Society, and the School of Fine Arts — and I'll say a few words about each of them here by way of introduction.



Armitage

Kevin Armitage is an environmental historian with a reputation for teaching and scholarly excellence with additional interests in evolution, pragmatism, and aesthetics.



Armstrong

Ann Elizabeth Armstrong is a theater historian and director whose particular research and teaching focus on Freedom Summer has already yielded collaborations with Western College Program faculty and will continue to do so in the future.



Cummins

Hays Cummins returns to the Western faculty, having completed a term as Harrison Scholars Professor in the Honors Program, and will steward our initiatives in engaged learning. After a year of teaching in

Luxembourg, **Ben Jacks** will rejoin the group in 2010-11; he has strong scholarly and teaching interests in



Jacks

walking, the built environment, and issues of sustainability, and a deep commitment to writing.

No stranger to Western, my colleague in English, **Katie Johnson**, brings her teaching expertise in performance and film studies to the new faculty while continuing her scholarly project on the history of race and theater in the twentieth-century United States.



Johnson



McDonald

With research interests in feminist and cultural studies of sport, popular culture, and the body, **Mary McDonald**'s interdisciplinary training informs both her teaching and scholarship on intersections among race, gender, class, and sexuality. **Nik Money**, whose laboratory



Money

research on fungal biology is currently funded by both the NIH and the NSF, is conducting research for a new book project concerned with American science and science education in the 1850s and, in his spare time, has written a novel.

Finally, **Lisa Weems** currently teaches courses in cultural studies at the undergraduate and graduate levels and has published extensively on both youth subcultures and research ethics. I am particularly excited about the high degree of synergy among the faculty, in terms of their shared interests and expertise, as well as the strong commitment to imagining an exciting new curriculum that they have already evinced.



Weems

Since curriculum development and approval takes a good long time, we will still be in transition at Western next year. The new Living-Learning Community, to which we are now recruiting rising sophomores as well as prospective first-year students, has taken shape as a collaborative effort among a number of departments and programs, including American Studies, Botany, Educational Leadership, English, Latin American Studies, Theatre, and Women's Studies. Students living in Peabody next year will take a range of courses on-site and participate in the development of a community that retains many of the elements and events that characterized

the Western College Program while also developing some new ones. For more about what's on offer, I encourage you to have a look at our new website, available at www.cas.muohio.edu/western.

Lastly, I look forward to a continuing working relationship with WCP alumni, as you establish yourselves as an affinity group under the auspices of the Miami University Alumni Association and also work to strengthen ties with the WCAA. I believe that alumni support of and engagement with the new program will be critical to its long-term success, and hope soon to establish an alumni advisory board that will make a significant contribution to a revitalized Western.

— Mary Jean Corbett, Interim Director

From the Tappan Center ...

Christopher R. Wolfe has been part of the Western College Program faculty since 1989 and is now a professor of psychology at Miami University. He provided this update on the Anna Helen Tappan Center for Computer Assisted Learning.

As I sit writing in Peabody Hall on a blustery February Wednesday, the Western campus is awaiting the first signs of spring. Yet those seeking signs of life on campus need look no further than the Center for Computer Assisted Learning. Thanks to your generosity, we have become a hub of community activity for students on the Western campus

and the remaining Western College Program juniors and seniors.

We are open five nights a week and have become a place where students work on senior projects, check their e-mail, and find innovative ways to procrastinate. We are sponsoring a full slate of activities for the Western community this spring, including a session for seniors to impart their wisdom to juniors; a meeting with former interim assistant dean **Kim Ernsting** on explaining Western to potential employers and graduate schools; a digital photography contest; computer games; even a kickball game in April.

I would like to thank the WCAA for all your support over the years since we first opened the Tappan Center in the fall of 1990. It has been an amazing ride. As the new Western Program begins to take shape, plans for a new center for engaged learning are beginning to come together. Part of the idea is to reinvent the Tappan Center as part of that new center. I am happy to report that **Dr. Hays Cummins**, professor in both the current and new Western programs, is planning to head up that center. This spring, the Tappan peer tutors and I will work with him to make the transition as seamless as possible. So as former WCP dean **Curt Ellison** taught us to sing, "may the circle be unbroken!"

— Chris Wolfe

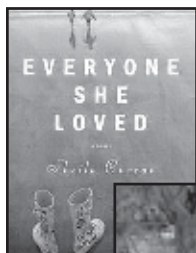


Chris Wolfe

1984: This Year's 25th-Anniversary Class



I can only assume that everyone was so busy on the campaign trail that they neglected to send me updates about their lives. So we will join together to celebrate the good news from two of our favorite Peabody Gals, **Sheila Curran** and **Leslie Greene Bowman** who did write in.



Rush over to your computers to pre-order a copy of **Sheila's** second novel: Published by Simon and Schuster, *Ever She*



Author Sheila Curran

Loved, will be released June 1, 2009. And if you never read her first great tome, *Diana Lively Is Falling Down* — well, get that one too. Keep up with Sheila, who resides in Tallahassee Florida, and her budding career at: <http://sheilacurran.typepad.com>.

And later, in another part of town, namely Charlottesville, Virginia, our steadfast **Leslie Greene Bowman** is breaking down barriers at The House of Jeff — Jefferson that is — where she is now the president and chief executive of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the private, nonprofit corporation that owns and operates Monticello.

"Leslie is joining Monticello at an inflection point," said Alice W. Handy, chair of the Foundation's board of trustees. "The most important education initiative undertaken since the Foundation acquired Monticello in 1923 is just about to be launched. She's the perfect person to take our exciting plans forward." ...and the perfect person to call for all things Jeffersonian. We beam with pride.



CEO Leslie Bowman

Rhian Miller '78
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I write this on MLK Day, the day before the Inauguration with great hope and thanks for our new president and our country. One of the joys of my year was going door to door for Obama in the days before the election. I know there were more than a few Westerners doing the same and more, and I feel so grateful for those in previous generations who laid the foundations for this moment in history. Let's hope that the enthusiasm engendered during the campaign can be transformed into commitment to the challenging work ahead!

Sounds like the year brought exciting developments and milestones for some of our classmates.

Leah Gilbert writes: "I'm going 'high tech' with the opening of my online jewelry shop on etsy.com, a website that offers all things handmade, from jewelry to pottery to purses. All else goes well here ... my husband and son, who turns 15 tomorrow — yikes! — are both doing great. My shop's address is: www.intuitionbyleah.etsy.com."

Many of us received invitations to join AARP this year — ouch! — including **Stephen Nieman**, who writes: "What a year! I've celebrated my 50th birthday and my 20th anniversary with the same company. Life as a transportation planning consultant has been challenging. This year I've enjoyed teaching a course titled 'Transportation and Land Use' in various cities across the country. By 'enjoy' I mean that I've endured many hardships for little reward. Travel for pleasure is great, business travel is not. When I've had the time, I've been building a wood kayak. The winter arrived before I had a chance to paddle it, however, so I look forward to the first chance I'll have in the spring to do that.

"I remain happily married, parents with Judy of two young children, Meaghan (10) and Sean (8). We're active in the schools and Cub Scouts. I've attached a recent picture of the clan. As the t-shirts proclaim, life is good." Should you wish to be in touch, Steve can be reached at: 431 Kerr Lane, Springfield, PA 19094; 610-328-3023; steveniemann@comcast.net.

Carolyn Johns McConnell has managed the empty nest transition creatively by welcoming some more life into the house. She writes: "Both of our boys have gone off to college now. We have replaced them with Luke (a golden retriever) and Larry (a black Lab). Actually, we had Luke before, but just got Larry as a 'goodbye' gift from Andrew right before he left for school. Larry was a stray that had been found at his work. Now



Steve Nieman and happy clan

that he's older (5 months) and bigger (52 lbs.), he has made himself at home. So, we don't exactly have an empty nest. Otherwise, all is going fine."



Thanks to Luke and Larry, the McConnells' empty nest isn't exactly "empty."

As for your class rep, our household is transitioning from Thomas the Tank Engine to Mario Cart Wii very quickly. Our son, Sam, is now a second grader and much prefers play at home to life at school. We all had the pleasure of Thanksgiving dinner this year with **Susan Jasbeck Steinberg's** family and Sue and I will celebrate our 50ths belatedly with high tea with their two delightful daughters this weekend. (It's a long way from a BFP, I know!) I continue to enjoy the writing community at Women Writing for a Change in Cincinnati and continue my work at a small Episcopal Church in Lawrenceburg, where folks are still trying to save my irreverent soul.

Thanks to those who sent news. Feel free to send yours throughout the year. We'll all look forward to hearing from you! Be well, stand in hope.

Mary Taflinger '80
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'82 WESTERN

Hello Everyone — Only one person wrote this time, but I know you all will enjoy the warm and wonderful note from **Heidi Hansen Beach**. Hope everyone is well. Best wishes to all!

"Hi, fellow Westerners. Now that I am 'older' and reading a book called *Letting Go* about sending your child off to college (and not behaving like a lunatic helicopter parent), I look back at Western in a new light. Seems that many colleges now espouse some type of interdisciplinary approach, although not to the depth that we endured. Western was unique and certainly nothing my parents knew what they were sending me to. As a matter of fact, I landed on that campus never having been there before, and frankly quite terrified by the drive through endless cornfields to get there ... unprepared that they were going to leave me there and for some unknown reason, surprised when they did. Thank God that **Cara Chenfeld**, my roommate was sane, quiet and lovely. She seemed to have a clue.

"Do you recall how every turn you took there was something new? Like buying books ... where, which books, with what money? A checkbook? Hhhmmm. How unprepared. Without a reference point ... and meeting new people, the first question being 'where are you from?' ... mostly left me isolated when I said New Jersey ... a state rather than a town in Ohio ... conversation stopper right there unless they asked 'why did you come all the way here?' ... and then I would dissociate off to the drive through the cornfields and have no answer to that question.

"But for some reason I think that my daughter might have a clue about going to college a bit more than myself. She has mapped out routes and distances to Maine schools, and scheduled tours and takes charge just fine — although I really wonder how she will treat a roommate. Her dorm room, if it was the size of my Peabody dorm room, will be a bigger bedroom than she knows now ... she has experience living out of bins. I am watching her be shaped by the day, and she could end up at a classic school or a liberal school ... I do not know. My son, Ian, who is younger (13), is thinking he is older and really looking forward to high school, next year, particularly soccer and basketball. He is a fine student and dreams of a college in a warm place where sports are well attended.

"My husband and I still talk and seem to have decided that moving forward with laughter is the way to go. He is smart and funny and stays fit by boxing. He is not a talker, he is a



Heidi Hansen Beach '82 and family ... at the beach

reader. I have less energy, but love mundane chores, work part-time is good for structure and meaning and friendship. We are surrounded by a community here in Sharon, Massachusetts, that is diverse and unique. This is home. Home Healthy Home. And Avery, my mom who is 86, just told me at Thanksgiving that she was traumatized when we separated. Just thought you should know how loved you were, Class of '82." hbeach9216@aim.com

Maggie Nash '82
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'84 WESTERN

Celebrating 25 years!

Here's the latest news from the Class of 1984 [and check out the picture, page 34]:

LuAnn McCormick writes: "25 years since we graduated? Dang we're old! I think back on Western days like they were yesterday. The Western philosophy has stuck with me in how I think, live, and work. Pretty much since graduating, I've lived in Albany, New York. Moved out here for grad school in social welfare. I do research on children's mental health programs at the University at Albany. My partner of 22 years and I have a 13-year-old daughter in seventh grade. 2008 has had its challenges for our family and we're glad to start a fresh new year." 18 Seneca Place, Albany, NY 12208; llm61@nycap.rr.com

Brad Parker writes from his goat farm in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. He turns the milk from his 48 Saanen dairy goats into cheese and sells it in Washington, DC. He

wonders if our new president will buy any of his cheese! His daughter is a freshman in high school, and he says that her attempts to assert her independence cause him to dig deep for patience.

Dave Wallace continues to work for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. In his spare time he does a lot of volunteer work. His wife, Shelly, works with the accent modification program at Xavier University. Their oldest daughter, Laura, is a freshman at Xavier, and has become very active in the theater program. Their daughter, Becca, is a junior in high school, active in color guard and theater, and their youngest, Susan, is a freshman who enjoys playing percussion with the marching band, and also loves participating in the academic team and Latin certamen competitions.

Myself, I have lived in Chicago for almost 11 years now, and I am still working as a paralegal with Skadden, Arps. I sing with a local group, the Sing to Live Community Chorus, and I love going to the Lyric Opera and the Art Institute. In the summer I do a lot of biking. It was great to see **Stephanie Wagner** and **Bill Thompson** at the 35th All Western Reunion last September, and I hope to see a lot of our class in Oxford for our 25th reunion this June. Write or e-mail me at address below. All best wishes!

David Hertzog '84
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'86 WESTERN

Tina Lightcap reports that she, Floyd, Abbey, Ethan still live in the West Union area of Adams County in southern Ohio and have done so since June 1989. They have expanded their hobby farm with dairy goats (13 total) along with a few horses, two laying hens, and the customary country dogs and a cat. They enjoy the tranquility that their acreage offers. Tina relates that Abbey is in her second year at Berea College and has changed her focus to agriculture management. She enjoys working on Berea's educational farm and is part of the cattle team. Tina enjoyed having her home for Christmas. Ethan is a junior at North Adams High School and faces challenges with Algebra II and chemistry. He secured his driver's license and a part-time job at the local Murphree Ridge Inn as a dishwasher. He enjoys helping with vehicle repairs and animal



*John Mack '86, at a "prescribed burn,"
Cleveland Metroparks, April 2008*

chores. Floyd primarily is their stay-at-home dad; works part-time for the township and still gardens, raises hay, and tends to the animals. Their chores are still challenging as there is no running water to the barn. Electric is available at the goat barn — just not hooked to any fixtures yet.

Tina is still employed with Area Agency on Aging, District 7's home care program. She has been with the agency for 13½ yrs and moved to a different position in October of 2007 as an assessor/case manager for the Choices Waiver program. This is a consumer-driven program for PASSPORT waiver consumers who want to hire their own worker and have more control over their services. As a case manager, Tina does more advocacy, education, and information/referral for her consumers. She serves seniors in Adams, Brown, Highland, Pike, Scioto, and Ross counties.

Tina still hears from **Brent Wilcox** (1985 Environmental Design grad) yearly through Christmas letters, in which she enjoys hearing about his, his wife Marilyn's, and their children's life. Tina notes that when she reads reunion notices, her heart wants to attend, yet she doesn't seem to secure time off from work or the home to follow through with those aspirations. She is hopeful that one of these years she can return to say "hello" to all and see everyone in person.

John Mack reports that after working for 15 years at the Ohio EPA as a lawyer and then a wetland ecologist, he recently became the Chief of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks, thereby confirming that you can go home, as he now manages the natural resources of the park that he grew up playing in and where he first learned to love the natural world. (One of his first big poetic endeavors in Creativity and Culture was a long meditation of childhood memories associated with playing and exploring at the confluence of the East and West Branch of the Rocky River, about two miles from my office.) John's work life revolves around controlling deer and invasive plants and

working towards implementing urban ecosystem restoration plans. John says that he and his family are slowly settling into their rehabbed 1913 house in Lakewood, Ohio, which is about six blocks from his first apartment after he finished graduate school and a mile from his high school. John's new work contacts: jjm@clevelandmetroparks.com; 440-331-8569.

Erik Bork sent along a note, although he only attended Western for his freshman year ('83-'84). As he said, he "made some of my best friends for life there, including **Diane Wright**." Erik now lives in Los Angeles, and although he's

not been to a reunion yet, he sends along the thought that "maybe someday ... if that's okay." Speaking for the group, I certainly hope that he does. If you'd like, encourage him at: ebork@sbcglobal.net.

And speaking of **Diane Wright**, she and I caught up early last fall before the reunion, that I unfortunately could not attend. Diane is as vibrant and compassionate, and yes, as beautiful as she was in college. I wish I could see her more often. I am still practicing law, but took some really cool trips this year — Spring Break in Istanbul (unbelievable — beautiful and interesting and historic and one of my favorite places anywhere), summer vacation in the Canadian Rockies — Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper, and Christmas break on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Yes, my husband, Jon, is a frustrated travel agent, trapped in a lawyer's suit. Benjamin continues to grow up (maturity and height-wise) very fast — he's now in the sixth grade. He's playing the trombone and soccer, and generally, is really a fun and interesting person to be around, unless he's practicing his surly teenager mood, which thankfully, is not often.

Another Western alum has joined me at Baker & Hostetler — **Stuart Bassin (Class of 1979)**. Stuart is doing tax work in our DC office. Never thought I'd see the day when two interdisciplinary studies majors were working for the same large law firm. As soon as he arrived, I e-mailed him and had that immediate connection. Nice to know that I have a partner who knows what a B.Phil. is.

I am still serving on the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Arts and Science and the Pre-Law Advisory Board. So if you have any views that you would like expressed to either group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Beth McNellie '86
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Evidence that "multidisciplinary filmmaker" extraordinaire Tom Jennings '86 is alive and well is this self portrait taken in his New York apartment, where he lives with wife Rebecca and son Griffin — "both of whom I adore and am very proud of." Look for more on Tom's professional life in the December 2008 "Western ... E-round the World" on our website: www.muohio.edu/wcaa.



David Stout sends holiday greetings from Colorado! "I just want to say hi (to you and all my other classmates). All is well here. My wife and two boys are happy and healthy. Only real complaint right now is a lack of snow here in the mountains, but that should work itself out with time. I hope that you are well. I would love to hear about your life since '88 so send me an e-mail." scw@wildblue.net!

Andy Miller writes, "Hi, all. I'm still at Northern Kentucky University as associate professor of English, teaching mostly creative writing. This year, we started an M.A. program so I taught my first graduate level fiction workshop and will continue to be graduate faculty teaching several new courses for the program. Last year, I had my first sabbatical (I love sabbaticals!) to study creative nonfiction. I attended a few workshops including the Aegean Arts Circle, on the island of Andros in Greece. It was fantastic. I also went to Germany to be best man at the wedding of my first exchange student. (As I tell people, I don't have kids, I have Germans.) My fifth exchange student is living with me now. This year's travel includes Chicago for the AWP conference, Orlando, where I will once again be an attending author at the International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, and Machu Picchu, where I will go with an NKU Honors Class. I continue to publish short stories and poetry usually under P. Andrew Miller. I still live near Oxford, so if you visit, let me know. I might be able to meet you, and if Germanless, offer a guest room." millera@nku.edu.

Also received holiday greetings from **Liz Novatny**, **James Peacock** and **Michele Harrison-Sears**. All seem very happy and well. I've also been experimenting with Facebook recently and I'd say some Western alums have a nice showing there too, check it out!

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ggatsos@pct.edu



No news was received from class members this time around.

Stuart Quirk '90
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After the usual prodding, the Class of '92 sent five updates this year (six, I guess, if you include mine); many thanks to all of you who chose to share. I'm not sure just what all of this means, but am perfectly content just to let it fly!

From **Sherri Umansky**: "I don't have any 'new' news, but I'm here in DC's Maryland 'burbs, am working at EPA. My partner, Carol, and I have a 2½-year-old daughter, Ava. Life is good. Would love to hear how people are doing."

Pilar Williamsen claims to "live much too humble a life to communicate anything, but am always glad to hear of others. I am a chiropractic physician in St. Louis, Missouri, where I practice with my husband. Husband included, we have quite a little zoo of animals who have found Home with us. I have very much enjoyed reconnecting with **Cathy Brigham** on Facebook recently..."

Kristin Wagner Sweeney is a juvenile court judge for Cuyahoga County, Ohio. She and **Peter** ('91) live in Shaker Heights with their two boys, Wyatt (8) and Jack (6). Peter teaches high school math. Kristin says her life is extremely interesting, but going by in a blur. Last July, some of "Breast Western" lived, however briefly, under the same roof once again. Kristin, **Catherine Sherron**, and

her husband, Randy, visited **Colene Flynn Robinson** and her family in Boulder, Colorado. A great time was had by all! A few weeks later, **Mike Conaway '91** stopped by for a late-night visit with the Sweeneys. And Kristin gets to see a number of other Western alums living in the Cleveland area more or less often. A final note from her: "There are so many of you I would love to see again. Happy New Year! Kristin Wagner Sweeney aka 'Wags.'"

Brian Richardson writes: "I am living in Chicago and happily married to my wife of nearly seven years, Kathleen. We live with our two adopted senior dogs in the Bucktown/Wicker Park neighborhood on the northwest side. I own and manage a small management consulting firm, working with Fortune 500 clients on large-scale change programs. I started the firm in 2003, after 10 years' doing similar work for a large, global firm. We love living in Chicago and taking advantage of all this great city has to offer. Our travels over the years have taken us to Ireland (where we were married), Europe, Alaska, Ecuador and, later this year, Vietnam. I can be reached by e-mail at brian@richardsonconsultinggroup.com."

This year's prize for keeping the activist spirit of Western alive goes to **Lynn Kirkpatrick Murphy**, who submitted the following open letter:

"Hi, Alice and all. I wouldn't normally write anything and pretty much like to keep to myself, but I think it may be beneficial for me to say in writing that I'm pretty proud of my accomplishments in the last year.

"Before 2008, I would have only talked about me as a mom of two wonderful children. Now it's 2009, and I can say that in one year I started a coalition of concerned parents to stop aerial spraying of a pesticide/biochemical Checkmate over San Francisco. PLAY not SPRAY began as a small group of moms and dads at a preschool. Through our strategy, outreach, and cooperation with other organizations, like the California Alliance to Stop the Spray (CASS) and Pesticide Watch, we became pretty influential and the aerial spraying that was scheduled to happen over San Francisco and the greater Bay Area, in August 2008, was halted.

"If you are not from California, all this may sound crazy to you (or not) but the idea of California being under a state of emergency due to the threat of the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), which allows the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) to spray a biochemical over urban areas and other areas populated by people without any testing of its effects on people and the environment, is absolutely crazy but REALLY SCARY if you take it seriously. When I

learned that Santa Cruz was actually sprayed in October 2007, I contacted people from there and it really hit home for me.

"The health of our children and other people with compromised immune systems was being threatened. As a mom, all my inhibitions were set aside, and I became politically active. It astounded me that most people I spoke to knew nothing of what was happening or didn't care. I felt like a crazy person at times but this didn't stop me. I talked to anybody I met in the park, on a plane, or bus. I attended hearings in Sacramento and in San Francisco to support bills and resolutions against the spraying and demanding more testing or re-classification of the LBAM so that the eradication program would not be necessary. My children went with me everywhere and this experience, with the full support of my husband, will stay with me for the rest of my life.

"I could write hundreds of pages on this but I will not. You can go to our website (which hasn't been updated since the spraying was called off in June 2008) at www.playnotspray.org if you're at all curious. Other groups are continuing the efforts to end use of pesticides and change agricultural practices, such as Pesticide Watch and Pesticide Action Network (www.panna.org/resources/lbam), which I am grateful for because this kind of work takes more energy than a mom can give on an ongoing basis. Please also check out www.cassonline.org/ to learn more about the history of this movement and continuing efforts at the local level.

"Another big part of my life in 2008 was leading an effort to start a new charter school using Waldorf educational methods. At this point, I have just learned that the San Francisco Unified School District is not supporting our charter petition (a 300-page petition submitted in November 2008). They do not believe that the Waldorf method can be successful because reading and writing is not introduced until first grade and the use of computers is not introduced until sixth grade. Test scores are not good in the early years and Waldorf is not in the vocabulary of much of the population. I am fearful of the trend of our educational system to push academics and testing in kindergarten and loading children with repetitive, non-stimulating homework in the early years of learning. Our society is burdened with stress and labels of learning disabilities and drugs to 'cure illnesses.'

"Children should be playing and learning how to 'be' and socially interact. This is what I believe and why my daughter attends a private Waldorf school. I believe that all children should be allowed the opportunity to

ALL classes come and celebrate WCAA's 35th at Reunion '09 ... June 19-21!

develop at their own pace and cultivate their creativity and imagination so that they will be lifelong learners and individual thinkers. They are also taught respect and reverence for other people and the earth. After putting in hundreds, perhaps thousands of hours and motivating hundreds of parents to participate and support our efforts, I have to decide what I will do next. What will 2009 be for me?

"Having kids is making me stronger and more active in my life. I'm taking a little break to breathe in and figure it out. In the meantime, I'll continue to look after my family day in and day out and try and do the crafty things moms do, like put together photo albums and knit. Which, funnily enough, I also learned how to do last year. Anyway, I know I'm blabbing on and on, but give me a break, because for the first few years of having a child, my successes amounted to making dinner on time, or making dinner at all, and cleaning the house. Thank you and wish you all well."

I'm not sure I can provide an adequate follow-up to that. Suffice to say that my family and I left Texas behind us this year (after two solid days of driving) and moved to Sundance, Wyoming, where my husband, Mark, is the chief of resource management for Devils Tower National Monument. I am still a science writer for the National Park Service, and get to travel to all sorts of sublimely beautiful places for work. We plan to visit **Stephanie Wiant, Colin Fogarty '94**, and their brood of three in Portland, Oregon, this year. Our daughter, Abbey, is 3 this year and, oddly enough, is starting to demonstrate an impressive independent streak, a boundless (sometimes more boundless than we'd like) vocabulary, and a strong conviction in the veracity of her own ideas. How *do* these things happen??? I hope you all are well; I'm enjoying hearing from many of you on Facebook. Until next year ...

Alice Wondrak Biel '92
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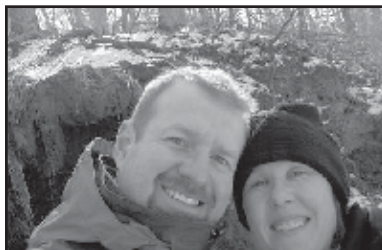
Celebrating 15 years!

Hey Western class of 94! It's gonna be a short update this year, but action-packed. BAM!!! See what I mean?

From **Tyrus Burgess**: "I'm in New York and extremely happy." tyrusb@yahoo.com POW!!!

From **Amy Voris**: "Things with me have been running along — a lot of juggling and commuting and some dancing in there ..." dolidheavybody@hotmail.com ZING!!!

From **Andy "Smurf" Miller**: "I left UAB and academics. Please update my e-mail as apmille1@yahoo.com; amiller@cvapc.com" THWACK!!!



Ben and Michelle Gibbons

From **Ben Gibbons**: For Ben and Michelle the highlights of the year were travel and the opportunity to see friends. "Our February trip took us to Yellow Springs, Ohio. Amongst other things we had a chance to visit **Pam Nicodemus**' business, and crash the first birthday for Pam's son, while hiking through the Glen. The year also brought opportunities to visit **Jeremy Holmes, Ryan Donmoyer, Michele Casto, Amy Glesius, Laura Black** and **Ted Welser** (all **Class of '93**), their respective spouses and daughters.

"Upon returning from our Cleveland visit with Amy, Roger and Stella, we ran into Ike, who promptly dropped a branch through Ben's windshield. Thankfully, the last of the downed tree limbs were cleared just before the annual Gibbons Halloween Festivus, a tradition dating back to 1993 and crooked house on West Withrow. While the year also brought many trips to Oxford, the highlight had to be the 35th Anniversary Weekend for the Western College Program. The weekend was both bittersweet and hopeful, thanks to the spirit of the place and people gathered. We were also thrilled to host road warriors from DC, Jeremy, Ryan, **Emily Brown '07, Mark Censky '81**, the Thursday night before the Reunion.

"Building off the momentum from the Reunion, alumni from all eras of the WCP (including the classes of '09 and '10) voted to establish an official Western College Program alumni organization in conjunction with the Miami alumni association, while working to strengthen and maintain ties to the WCAA. Alumni interested in making the new WCPAA a reality will come together this spring to begin the organizin'. Here's hoping there's an announcement at the All Western Reunion in June, and that we'll see you there. All the best to you and yours. Slainte." bendgibbons@yahoo.com. KABLOOIE!!!!!!!!!!

And here's me, **Johanna "Send me yer updates" Smith** (johanner@gmail.com): I've been wasting a lot of time on Facebook this year, and you should too. A ton of Western types from every year are on there, playing Scrabble and posting embarrassing pictures of us in Peabody and cute videos of our children and pets. It's a big party that makes ya feel old but happy. Join for free, search for me, and you'll find a bunch of Westernites in my "friends list ..." including professors. How awesome is that? I've been puppeting away at CSUSB — took a show to a festival in Bulgaria last September; now I'm gearing up for a tour to China. My daughter, Katya, and I adopted a stray dog and she has lit up our lives like a cheesy '70s song. I'm hopeful about '09 — super happy about our new president and optimistic about positive change. So far so good. ON-OMOTOPOEIA!!!!!!



Johanna, shot by Katya Vallianatos using Fisher Price camera

The office recently received a press release announcing that **Molly Eggleston** has achieved the recognition of being Certified in Public Health (CPH) by the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).



Molly Eggleston

Molly was further recognized with the special honor of being in the Charter Class of Certified in Public Health. She joined the NBPHE as its first deputy executive director in October 2008. Proud to be part of the landmark event —

some 700 professionals in the U.S. and abroad sat for the inaugural exam — Molly commented, "It was a fair exam, and I'm glad that I took it to demonstrate mastery of the core sciences of public health."

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Greg McGill is single and lives outside Columbus in Worthington, Ohio. He is a member of MadLab, an original theater compa-



Ellen Burglund's three boys, 6 months ago

ny, where he both acts and writes. He adds that if he were a woman he'd be a cat lady.

Jenelle Peterson teaches fifth grade at a prep school in Maui, Hawaii. On weekends she plays soccer in a co-ed league and races outrigger canoes. She really enjoys teaching and loves to inspire her students.

Meredith Glueck is in Austin, at the University of Texas. She says she is "finishing her dissertation, at last." She has been studying a group of Afro-Brazilian street vendors in Salvador, Brazil. She was married to fellow historian Byron Crites in 2006.

After 10 years in Oakland, **Karen Hunter** has moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to live closer to family and spend time at home raising her two girls (2 and 5). She is going to go back to teaching again in fall 2009.

Ben Gunsberg sends out "an emphatic WHAT UP to all my fellow Westernites, especially those who turn up unexpectedly in spooky dreams." He's currently studying digital media composition at the University of Michigan, and is in the fourth year of his doctoral dissertation. He's married to Andrea Melnick, a researcher at the U of Michigan's School of Education, and they have a 2-year-old daughter named Maya.

David Paransky lives with his wife, Air, in Southern California and teaches people how to speak English. He likes to travel. This last year he spent a month in Thailand visiting with his wife's family, and recently returned from a trip to New York City.

Kelly McCarthy lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where she works as a massage therapist and runs the Hara Center (www.theharacenter.net). She has three kids, age 10, 7 and 10 months. You can see some of her art work online at www.thehappybelly.net.

Susan Waszak is finishing her last year of law school, and working at the thoroughbred racetrack in Cleveland. Since school started, she mostly spends her time riding and playing with her dog.

After living in New Orleans for nine years, **Ellen Burglund** moved to Shaker Heights, Ohio. While in New Orleans, Ellen taught in the public schools and earned a master's degree in special education. She lives with her husband, Bill, and three boys: Will (3½), Joe (2) and Andy (7 months). They'll all be six months older by the time you read this.

Eve Gilmore reports she currently lives in Durango, Colorado, with her "rad" husband, Mark Dickmann. They were married in 2004 after living together for 8 years in Taos, New Mexico; Missoula, Montana; and Arcata, California. Eve runs her own garden coaching, consulting and design business called Gardens by Eve. She and Mark share their house with a cat, Domo Arrigato, and a dog named Summer.

Maria Zazycki lives in Seattle, Washington, which has been her home for 10 years. She works as a special events producer for the fund-raising department at Seattle University. She also reports she is earning her M.B.A. from Seattle U.

Kara Blake lives in Indian Lake, Ohio, and practices law in nearby Sidney. She can hardly believe she's been a lawyer for four years already. She's been "casually doing triathlons" and won a race this last summer in her age/gender category.

Lastly, **John Blair** currently lives in Oakland, California. He lives with his wife of three years, Susanna Laaksonen (Miami class of 1995), and his son, Ethan, who will be 11 years old when this is printed. For money he works on software to help corporations run their solar power systems better.

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Hi '98ers — Happy Spring! I wanted to say hello and hope everyone's having a great year so far. Nothing much new with me — I've been back for two years now, still working in transportation planning and still the bookworm. I've heard from several people who wanted to share and get back in touch. Much Love from gritty Dayton!

Julie Lanter: "I'm currently living in Alexandria, Kentucky, with my husband, Tim Lanter (Miami grad 1996). Our biggest recent news is that on September 11, 2008, we welcomed a baby boy into our family. Asa Joseph joins his big brother, Silas (born May 2005). Everyone is healthy and doing great. In February, after a nice long maternity

leave, I'll be returning to my job with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, where I have worked as an investigator since 2001. I'd love to hear from some of my fellow classmates — drop me a line at julielanter@yahoo.com. Take care!"



Doug and Annabelle

Doug Wells: "I live in Worcester, Vermont. I have a 5-year-old daughter named Annabelle. I have a business designing and installing solar systems. Rocking out in the mountains and enjoying life more than ever." The Solar Specialists, Worcester, VT 05682; (p) 802-223-7014, (c) 802-498-5856; www.thesolarspecialists.com



Shannon and Sadie

Shannon Plummer Twilling gave birth to her second baby girl, Sadie, in Tucson, Arizona, in February. They look cozy and happy in this hospital pic.

Also, there are a fair number of Westerners in San Francisco keeping busy and creative. [See picture, opposite page.] Thanks, Romi and Sam (and fb) for keeping me posted on what's going on out West.

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Updates! **Joseph Shacat** has been living in Honolulu for seven years. He is happily married to Christin, and working as an en-



Some "Western folk" in San Francisco (left to right): Sarah Reilly '00, Hannah Strange '99, Sarah Lyon MU '00, Romi Manheim '00, Sam Ackerman '98 and Kendra Klein '00

vironmental scientist helping large industrial companies in Hawaii do good things for the environment. When not working, he spends his time sailing or working on his boat. "I know," he says, "it's a tough life. In December, a cold night drops below 70."

Heather Teagan Blackburn changed her first name to Teagan, and her e-mail is now: teaganblackburn@gmail.com. Since graduating, Teagan worked at Grailville Farm, backpacked through Europe, taught Montessori preschool and worked for Heifer International, while staying heavily involved in pro-peace movements and the underground music scene. She was handfasted to her life partner Brent "Arrow" Baker in 2006, and is pursuing independent studies in Ecovillage Design and Development.

Mele Stemmermann Avery is living in the Northern Virginia/DC area and working in the Science Library of Georgetown University, where she will start "librarian school" next fall. She was married in 2007, is the proud parent of one black cat, and is hoping to adopt another shelter stray soon. "Life is better than good," Mele writes, "and I hope the same goes for all my '00 comrades."



Newlywed Averys

Erstwhile 2000er, **Greg Michalec** is still on the West Coast, doing legal education and trainings for activists, playing saxophone and taking long-distance bicycle trips. He can be reached at greg@primate.net.

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For some reason this year's class updates have been difficult to come by. Maybe we're all old enough now that we're busy with the minutiae of life and it's tough to take time out to write a blurb about the last year. Maybe we're all keeping in touch other ways, like Facebook. Whatever the reason, I had a total of three written updates (which includes my own). As a result, I had to get creative with this year's notes.

First, the legitimate updates:

Michael Bush is still living and breathing in the brackish air of the Pacific Northwest, where he continues to work as a bicycle mechanic. In his spare time he volunteers at another couple nonprofit bike shops, where he is able to proselytize more easily his ideas on making ours a society of responsibly limited means and of self-sufficiency. He hopes to do the nonprofit thing full time at some point, in a youth leadership setting, with younger and more malleable minds at his disposable. Sometimes, very late at night, he wonders whether he's sick of bicycles.

Binnie Martin: "I am doing wonderful! I am living in DC with my boyfriend and am work-

ing as a therapist for special needs students in DC public schools and 'trying' to do contract therapy on the side. I am spending most of my time exploring the city, hiking, going to museums (yay they are all FREE!!!) and trying my hand at trivia night. Not to mention the excitement surrounding the political changes! If you are in DC let me know I would love to hear from people!"

Marta Roberts Lawrence is still living in Indianapolis with her husband, Greg, and their black Lab, Alex. It was a big year for Alex, as she started allergy shots, which have neither prevented her hair from falling out (we have the world's only bald lab) nor put a stop to her incessant scratching. Marta is currently working at the NCAA where she's continually robbed of time and is constantly answering BlackBerry messages. She has found a yoga studio to help her balance her life a bit. Namaste. In January, Greg and Marta attended Obama's inauguration, which was BY FAR one of the best experiences of their lives (besides getting married in Kumler, of course).

Now the "unofficial" updates, written with love by Binnie:

Noah was recently spotted running around the streets of Portland, Maine, barefoot. When stopped by a concerned citizen, he replied that his shoes had been taken by a fan of Phish looking for a reunion tour. If anyone spots his shoes, or the Phish fan, please contact Noah as soon as possible.

Sarah Arthur writes to us, stating that she is on her way to becoming the cat lady she has always wanted to be. She is currently at number seven and has not left the house in weeks as she receives all her pet medication from 1-800-Pet Direct.

Megan Gallagher Fogt is currently living in Pittsburgh, where she has become the library dragon lady we all feared in elementary school. Her fire-breathing technique only adds to her mystique, although an unfortunate incident ended with the torching of several Derida volumes last week

Finally, the really, really unofficial updates, taken from my friends on Facebook:

Todd Nadenichek — currently living in Chicago. Three most recent status updates: Ooh, that was about the best comment i've seen in forever. (no, i won't share. it was both crude & geeky) ... The neighbors started band practice at about 10:10. in the room closest to our bedroom. we're really looking forward to moving ...Way overfed.

Micah Vieux — Looks like he got his grad degree from Miami in '07 and is in a Relationship with Sara Bradford. Three most recent status updates: is going to bed early ... needs time to fly ... wants to shoot hoops after work.



Marta and Greg in DC

Andi Caudill Martin is a co-owner of the The Galaxie Skateshop (which is also on Facebook) in Newport, Kentucky. Three most recent status updates: is probably having a girl! (The baby didn't cooperate with the ultrasound.) ... can't believe she has fourth snow day ... has a snow day.

Rebecca Gale works in the U.S. Congress. Rebecca doesn't have any status updates, but does plan to attend Miami's bicentennial celebration.

Jennifer Walke is engaged. Three most recent status updates: is now regretting her ill-thought-out plan to run a 10K the morning after Bockfest ... is bockin it up! See you on Main Street! ... dreamt that she had to lead a high school pep rally about Low Income Housing Tax Credits. It's official — I need a vacation.

Genevieve Miller is working for the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Three most recent status updates: Was about to download some pics from last night's gala when I remembered that the dogs bit through the camera cord a few weeks ago ... has some work to do to plan her work trip to Vancouver Thursday ... so nice of summer to come so early this year.

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Celebrating 5 years!

So it's come to this: our fifth anniversary! It's been five years since we graduated from Western. Since we left Oxford, the class of 2004 has spread all across the country and the world. But two places always seem pop back up: Boston and Chicago. They continue to be the two major hubs of our class. This year's update is our biggest yet, I hope you enjoy it. In honor of last year's historic election, this year I'll start with the Chicago hub.

Maryjane Bellock leads off the Chicago crew, by writing: "Wow! Five years. I really feel old. (ed. note: no kidding!) I now work as an analyst for the Veterans Administration hospital in North Chicago. I still live in the Wicker Park area of Chicago right down the street from Katie Belkofer and Rachel Wray (Archies, I know, but still part of our Western posse). Happy Holidays!" You can reach MJ at maryjane@bellock.com.

Also living close is **Anna Rusbosin**. She writes, "I finished an M.Ed. at Xavier in Cincinnati in the spring and I teach ninth grade economics at ACE Technical High School in Chicago. I'm also the varsity girls basketball coach. I live in Logan Square (near MJ and Katie, and Rachel Wray, **Jenni Taylor**, and **James Flynn**)." And to further prove my "two hubs" point, Anna adds "I'm a bit sorry I didn't move to Boston, but Chicago is pretty fab." Thanks Anna!

Speaking of **James Flynn**, here is his update: "I wrote and directed an independent comedy titled *Eastern College*, based loosely on my experiences at Western. I shot it in Oxford during the summer of 2007, and it's currently on the film festival circuit. We're looking to get a DVD out sometime in 2009, although those deals are often tricky. If you'd like more information on the film, please visit www.candycanesammy.com/easterncollege. In 2008, I produced a dramatic feature here in Chicago called *Miss Ohio*. As I write this, the director, Emmy-nominee Gregory Fitzsimmons, is editing out in LA and the film should be making the film festival rounds in 2009. I'm excited for this one to get in front of audiences. I'm currently working on some screenplays and developing a few projects to direct in 2009. After working on *Miss Ohio*, I'm excited to direct another feature film." James reiterates, "We've got a nice group of WCP alums here in Chicago." You do indeed. Thanks James!

From Hub 1 to Hub 2, some quick hit updates on the Boston alums: **Matt Lincoln** is working and taking classes at Harvard, **Beth Price** is teaching writing classes at Emerson (we run into each other on the main Emerson intersection every so often), **Sarah Hewitt** and **Eric Weaver** are living happily in Quincy (Eric taking classes at Suffolk, Sarah working at Lush). **Leah Farzin** is continuing to pursue her law degree at Northeastern. And Archie-turned-Western-turned-every-other-major **Brian Crum** is living up here, managing Craigie on Main, consistently named one of the top restaurants in the country.

Making our way down the East Coast, we have a couple of updates from the Big Apple. "**Emily Smith** resides (mostly) peacefully in Brooklyn, New York, and is working on a master's degree in psychology at New York University. After completing a thesis on girls and masculinity, Emily will take a year off to write and record poetry, before sign-



Maryjane Bellock, Katie Belkofer and Anna Rusbosin, celebrating Anna's birthday in Chicago.

ing away the next five to seven years of life to a Ph.D. program. In the (apparently five) years since graduating from Western, Emily has been known to frequent porches and stoops, quit jobs without warning, and talk much louder than necessary. Emily hopes that political parties begin to multiply, and still experiences both nostalgia and confusion anytime the number twenty-six-and-a-half is mentioned." You can write to Emily at 2 Berkeley Pl. #1a, Brooklyn, NY 11217 or starthyiming@gmail.com.

Sean Boda has also been "living in NYC for slightly over a year — the culture and unique opportunities to participate everyday in some new art project keep me going. I've been working at a publishing company doing higher education textbooks — I got my first credit recently, which stokes my ego. I'm contemplating a move to Switzerland later this year to work with a guy who wants to publish a book and I'm always looking for an excuse to travel. I hope the next update allows me to report from some different part of the globe." I hope so too, Sean!

Continuing down the coast, from our nation's capitol come a couple of updates, first from **Paula Moran**. She sent me a very nice letter, updating us on her and husband Ryan. Some of the highlights: "In late March we flew down to the Caribbean for a belated honeymoon. We sailed around Guadeloupe, Les Saintes, Dominica and Marie-Galante. It was a picturesque and amazing voyage... On August 25th we celebrated our first wedding anniversary by going out to dinner at the restaurant that catered our wedding ... At the DC Association of Computer Machinery's 50th Anniversary Gala, Ryan was awarded Volunteer of the Year ... now as winter bitterly blows into DC, we wish you all a wonderful 2009." Thanks Paula!

They also add: "Paula and Sean are planning a WCP class of '04 reunion for early August '09. We are still searching for a geographically central location to host it (probably somewhere in PA). We would love suggestions for locations and also would like to know who is interested in coming. To make organization easier we'll set up an event on

Facebook where people can have access to details and give their own input." So please look them up on Facebook, we'll make our little reunion a reality!

Also living it up in DC is **Lauren Merker**: "Lauren has been living her life in six 24-month intervals since graduating from Western in 2004. She spent six months in Yellowstone National Park, a year in Chicago gallivanting around with a handful of other Westerners, and two years in Pittsburgh earning her master's of arts management at Carnegie Mellon University. After that, it was on to six months in New York City working at a cultural consulting firm as a research assistant, before Lauren finally found herself in the nation's capitol. She works in program development at a small nonprofit and lives with her sister. Lauren hopes to break her two-year record by staying in Washington for at least that long." Did you catch that? Lauren was in Chicago as well! You can't escape it!

Going way down to the coast is an update from **Kori Smith**: "I am still living in Savannah, Georgia. I am getting married on May 16th, 2009, to Tim Urso. Who'd have thought I'd have anything in common with an aerospace engineer? My small design studio just had our first big fashion show at the art museum this past November. We worked hard but it paid off and we're moving forward. I've designed and made several wedding gowns this year under my own company's label, including one for Lauren Collier (Archie '04) who got married in Ohio this October. Tim and I are living in downtown Savannah close to all the fun, so if anyone is ever in the area, let us know, we'd love to have you!" Thanks for the open invite, Kori! 118 Brady Street, Savannah, GA 31401, or korismith@vauntfashion.com



Matt and Jill's son, Daniel, vexed by a cell phone

Of course, there are a few '04 grads who are still in Oxford, and Oxford is a better place for it. Newlyweds **Matt Connor** and **Jill White** wrote a succinct update: "Hello. Had a beastie in April. His name is Daniel Theophilus Connor and he controls the weather. Got married in June." Jill is in her third year of the IBEW apprenticeship and Matt is teaching comparative religion at Miami Middletown. Welcome Daniel!

Also in Oxford (and literally representing the spirit of Western) is **Genevieve O'Malley Knight**. In September after graduation she got a job in the Office of the University Secretary in Roubidoux, which was a great of-



Genevieve O'Malley Knight '04 and husband Pat at the uptown Music Festival

fice. At the end of April 2005, she married Pat O'Malley in Kumler Chapel, and in summer 2006 they bought a house in Oxford, "cementing their intentions to stay a while." Genevieve did a short stint as a part-time graduate student in the Masters of Environmental Sciences program at Miami's Institute for Environmental Sciences in Boyd Hall. ("Ever wonder what happened on the other floors of Boyd? Now I know.") But she soon discovered that she prefers a life without homework assignments and instead keeps busy knitting things for her ever-increasing herd of nieces and nephews. This summer she and Pat bought a motorcycle and are learning to ride ('79 Yamaha SR500).

In August 2008, Genevieve left the secretary's office for a job as the program associate for the new Western Program, which means she now works in Peabody Hall as the support staff for the new developing Western Program. The job is often overwhelming ("being enough work for at least 2½ people") but she's "happy to be doing it, excited about the possibilities for the new program, and glad to be able to provide some connection between the old and new." She's happy to hear from any WCP alumni and answer questions. Her favorite part of her job recently has been "the discovery, lurking in the computer system, of the Mugbook from our senior year." She included a picture of me in the update, but for your sake I won't include it! Thanks Genevieve!

Finally, an update from the legendary **Jason Zeh**: "Things have been going really well for me. After leaving Oxford I moved back home to Bowling Green and went back to my coffee shop job. While working there I continued to work on music and art. I am still performing and recording experimental music. In recent years I have toured the East Coast once, the West Coast twice, and the Midwest twice. In October, my partner Kelly and I went to Mexico City and I played a show there as well. In 2005 I released my first 7" record and this past summer I released my first CD on Chicago label CIP. I have also been working more on my copy machine art and have had success designing record covers, flyers, and other pieces

that have been displayed in art shows. Last year I began a master's program in English at BGSU where I was given the opportunity to teach freshman composition and to work in the writing center. I will be finishing my thesis this year and working in writing centers next year while I apply to Ph.D. programs and work on art." Did you see how Chicago popped up again? Anyway, you can reach Jason at z_kofromspace@yahoo.com or jzeh@bgsu.edu.

As for myself, I moved into my own little apartment in Somerville. The past year was very busy for me — a lot of television/film freelancing all around the city — I am not looking forward to my tax return. I did settle into nice steady work eventually — I am currently working as an assistant at Emerson College, and will return to WGBH's FETCH! With Ruff Ruffman in the summer. My brother **Jason (Western '07)** just moved up to Boston, so we've been catching up, which has been great. Add another Western grad to the Boston mix!

Until next year, I hope to keep in touch with all of you via Facebook, e-mail, or just come visit. As more info becomes available for a little class of '04 get-together, I'll let you know. Have a fantastic 2009!

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Justin Katko is newly engaged to Haley Dolan and is finishing his M.F.A. in electronic writing at Brown University. He has been recently nominated for a Gates Scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Cambridge, England. Send him your condolences if he bombs the interview.

Alex Dodwell graduated this year with a master of arts degree in media studies from the University of Texas at Austin, after writing his thesis on mainstream media depictions of U.S.-Mexico immigration in the United States. He's currently living in downtown Austin and is employed as the communications director at a nonprofit organization serving employees of the state of Texas. He actually misses snowy Ohio winters and wishes he could find time to come back and see Westerners again!

Jonathan Franz is a second year law student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in Columbus, Ohio. He is a staff editor of *The Ohio State Law Journal*. He will spend this summer working as an associate for Best, Best, & Krieger in Los

Angeles, practicing municipal and environmental law. Jonathan will take the California bar exam after graduating in May of 2010.

Robyn MacConnell is enjoying life in Oakland, California, with her husband Alberto Andrade. They are both preparing to go back to school in the fall and are crossing their fingers they get to stay in California.

Jessica Best Smith lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband and two beagles. She currently works full-time at the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney in Alexandria as the chief law clerk. She loves her job because she appears in court every day, and she recently had her first jury trial using her third year practice certificate. Jessica is in her last semester of law school and will take the Virginia bar in July.

Kyle Gibson is still living in Los Angeles and has ventured into the world of production accounting. Movies and TV and numbers, oh my.

Jesse Murphy, founder of Creekjumper Creations, is living in Loveland, Ohio, with **Jenny Gallow** and their two adopted dogs. Jesse spent much of this year adding to his web design client list, raising their American bulldog mix puppy, and is now preparing to run a half marathon. Jesse's at: www.creekjumpercreations.com

Jenny, an interior designer with SHP in Cincinnati, has spent her free time gardening and working on home improvement projects. She is currently preparing to take her NCIDQ (the interior design accreditation exam).

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In this era of facebooking, tweeting, youtubeing, linking, blogging, myspacing, chatting, skypeing, and any other internet-related "ing" you can dream up, we can almost constantly be aware of what our friends are up to. For this reason, I could at least spread the word about needing updates effortlessly. Then I just had to wait for the replies to filter in. In true Western fashion, this took a while. Some had to be coerced one-to-one on chat, some responded at the last minute to the reminder e-mails, and some pointed me to their blogs:

Meg Ansley stayed at Miami after graduation to pursue a master's in environmental sciences, and will most likely focus on sustainable architecture and development. "Western provided me a great transition into this program since they are both so interdisciplinary in nature," she says. Next summer, Meg hopes to get her LEED accreditation, and will be studying abroad.

I occasionally run into **Nicole Brasseur** on google chat, which is always a pleasant surprise since she's all the way in Madagascar. Nicole is serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Taindambo, which is a small town in the Fianarantsoa Province of Madagascar. I am always fascinated by her updates about adjusting to life in a small farming community up in the hills, which includes having to travel into the city to get food and supplies, having an infrequent water supply, and learning to speak Malagasy since there are "no English speakers around for miles." Last time we chatted, Nicole shared with me as a parting note that the name of her town — Taindambo — translates to "wild bore poop." Then she had to get back to her site.

The update I received from **Katie Dever** revived images of Dr. Dolittle in my mind. She recently moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to be a primate zookeeper at the Birmingham Zoo, Inc., taking care of the resident monkeys and apes. Katie finds it demanding but also very rewarding. She is truly enjoying her new job and is always increasing her knowledge of and creating bonds with her primate colleagues. Katie struggled to recall a normal day at her job, adding, "you can always expect projectile feces, sucker punches from the gibbons, getting your hair pulled by the spider monkeys, purrs from the gorilla, growls from the macaques, wet kisses from the orangutan."



Oliver, one of Katie's primate friends

Emily Garritson has completed her first semester of medical school at Indiana University. She describes the experience as "exactly what one would imagine: time-consuming and busy!" She will be completing her first two years at the campus in South Bend. "Interestingly enough, we have had to write three two-page essays the first semester, which proved to be quite an annoying/befuddling experience for most ... but it seemed so trivial in comparison to the amount of material I wrote last year!"

Interacting with **Hailee Gibbons** never ceases to be entertaining. She is currently working as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Miami University's Office of Community Engagement and Service. When I asked her for an update, Hailee conjured up several statements, not necessarily true, but definitely worth sharing: "Unable to accept the fact that she is no longer really a student, Hailee continues to leave work for breaks, even when the University is open for all staff." She added that "purposefully ignoring the 2,190 items in her inbox she has been meaning to sort since August, Hailee now spends most of her time thinking up personal life updates to send to Pulkit." She does make her final note a bit more serious and true: "Hailee is working 60+ hour weeks to make the world a better place, darn it!" Hailee likes to talk about herself in the third person.

Jocelyn Haugen is living in Huntington Beach, in good ol' O.C., California. For the last six months, she worked as a sales representative for Newell Rubbermaid, calling on their key accounts (Home Depot & Lowe's) in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, at the beginning of this year, she became another victim of the economic crisis and was laid off. But she is keeping her spirits up, and is eager to get her career in sales, marketing and advertising back on track as soon as possible. Until then, Jocelyn is "enjoying the high temperatures and gorgeous sunsets."

Since graduation, **Matt Huelsenbeck** has been doing a bit of everything; He took a two-week rafting trip through the Grand Canyon, then served as a field organizer on Democrat Sam Bennett's (eventually unsuccessful) congressional campaign in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and applied to graduate school programs in marine science/policy. He is currently in Pittsburgh, helping his parents fix up their house to sell and then moving with them to Ithaca, New York. He is also "intensely rooting for the Steelers." Matt has even got a backup plan if grad school doesn't happen: "I will be taking an Oregon Trail-style adventure out west to California to try and work on marine conservation issues. Hopefully my oxen won't die while fording the river."

As a graduation present **Denise Kwan** was able to travel to Arizona and Las Vegas. She then decided to move to Arizona and even got an apartment there, but never moved because of a job offer from Macy's in Cleveland, where she had worked during school breaks for six years. Denise is now a manager at the store, and finds it "great, minus the Christmas season and the needy, rude, and outrageous customers." She's also one of their youngest managers and is often asked how old she is by curious customers. However, she says, "It doesn't offend me because it's true I am very young and I



Mike Litchfield, doing his thing

look young, but it makes me realize that my college education did something for me."

Stephanie Lee is in Los Angeles, teaching sixth grade special education math and science through Teach for America at John Muir Middle School. In addition to teaching full time, she is also a full time graduate student at Loyola Marymount University, working towards a master's in special education and urban education. She finds the experience of teaching in "one of the heaviest gang-influenced populations in LA" very challenging. "But, despite the worst days and the frequent feelings of defeat and fatigue, and even after the detentions and mediations and fights are done, I still enjoy my job and the feeling of relief I get when my students demonstrate understanding of fraction equivalence, or convection currents and density in the ocean: it makes me feel like my hard work was worth something."

Mikey Litchfield is a photographer for Modern Image Studios, a wedding company in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. He is also working as a freelance photographer for live concerts all around the city. As for his goals, Mikey is "working toward photographing for a music magazine or opening a photography studio with a fellow photographer in Chicago, but I need a bit more money before I can get that off the ground." Samples of Mikey's photography can be seen on www.mrlitchfield.com



Sudie with a dancer in Kerala

Over in India is **Sudie Niesen**, serving as a Young Adult Volunteer in Aluva, Kerala, through the Presbyterian Church, USA. Her primary job is to teach "spoken English" to

grades 1-9 at Christava Mahilalayam Public School. Sudie faces unique challenges teaching each age group, but she feels welcomed by everyone, especially when her students call her "Sudie Miss." On her experience so far, Sudie says: "The community here is one with tenuous borders — borders that have expanded freely to let me in. Everyday I see faces light up at my presence, and this excitement persists through all situations." After her year of service, Sudie plans on pursuing a dual degree master's in social work and master of divinity. Until then, Sudie is enjoying her unique adventure: "I came to India with the intention of serving others, but I'm learning that an essential part of the volunteer experience is developing the grace to be served as well."

Recipient of this year's Joanna Jackson Goldman Memorial Prize from Miami University, **John Obrycki**, is rolling ahead with his research project. Because of his project, he worked on a nearby farm during the fall, got to ride in a combine, and even drove his first tractor! Fun agricultural activities aside, John says his project is "hectic at times, and very broad. Some days it seems like a big senior project but without class and without the daily interaction with all the Western seniors. So in that sense, it's almost nothing like senior project." Next year, he plans on going to graduate school for a program that lines up with his agricultural/history/environmental interests. Until then, John will continue frequenting King Library, "and just like senior year, have way too many books checked out."

Emilie Orians is currently living in Cincinnati, working at MarketVision Research. It's going really well for her, and she is really enjoying working with the various companies that she gets to interact with because of her job.

All the way from Jakarta, Indonesia, where he is teaching English, **Elliot Rossbach** sent me the following (which I felt absolutely no need to paraphrase): "Jakarta, a place where stadiums and multimillion dollar high rises sit like forced band-aids on the wounds of the destitute. Arching towers sturdy on their haunches lean menacingly over kampung villages of thatched roofs whose inhabitants can be seen carefully struggling not to step in someone else's waste as they journey to expel their own. Wait a moment, is that a flower? Ah yes a flower! A beautiful lonely flower! Her colors waving brightly to the thousands of feet of passers-by tripping and trampling on their busy way. A true symbol of her majesty, roots dug deep inside the brown earth. What a treasure. Oh and to watch as she struggles at the embrace and overall weight of the gift being left by the man squatting over top of her!"

Our very own Western rock star **Tom Schleiter** is busy writing and recording a new album for his band Powerspace. In the fall,



Jessica Slack, on her way to work

he filled in on lead guitar with a band called Kill Hannah on their European tour. Tom had a great time, "except for one major disaster, which was our tour bus catching on fire in Switzerland! No one got hurt, though we did lose most of our luggage, clothes, and personal items. The fire even made the news in Switzerland and Italy, and supposedly even CNN in the U.S.!" Tom's big goal right now: he's working toward building his own recording studio.

Jessica Slack can be found in the urban commune of Kollo in Niger, where she is serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She works at a primary school inspection which oversees all the schools in the district, and she is also eagerly learning the local language, Zarma. Describing her life in Niger, Jessica says it is "both utterly amazing and incredibly frustrating at times. I have come to learn what a bush taxi is (10 passenger vans that fit 20 people and are usually in various states of disrepair) and have learned the importance of greetings ('how is your body?' is a question I answer daily)." Based on her observations, Jessica plans to start some long-term projects, such as a resource library for teachers, a literacy project to enhance language skills, and an arts and culture center for children.



Tom Schleiter, hanging out at the Berlin Wall



Nurit Yastrow in Jerusalem

Louisa Versaw is still in Oxford, working as the program assistant and as a victim advocate for the Butler County Rape Crisis Program and the business office of the Community Counseling & Crisis Center. "Fortunately," she adds, "**Hailee Gibbons** is here too, and we like to meet up for 'business woman' dinners after work and leave '09 Senior Pub Crawls because we have to get up early the next day."

Sydney Willcox is currently living in New York City and has been figuring out in which

direction to take her life. She has found it difficult to land a job in the current economic circumstances, but believes something positive did come out of it: "After all that time spent with myself and thinking, and after applying to hundreds of jobs, I realized what it is I want to do with my life: become a chef!" Sydney has been trying to get a job as a cook in an established restaurant, so she will be training for a while to see if this is indeed the path she wants to take.

The summer after graduation, **Nurit Yastrow** backpacked through France, Germany, and Italy for three weeks, and then spent nearly a month in Israel, all of which was "absolutely amazing." In August, she moved to Cleveland to pursue her master's in social administration at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. Nurit recently got her social worker trainee license, and with a concentration in children, youth, and families, she has been working at The Adoption Health Service, and the Cystic Fibrosis Center, at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. This spring, Nurit will also be taking an international course in Guatemala to study the current state of child welfare.

Martin Yip is pursuing a master's in economics at Miami U and will graduate in 2010. At the same time, he is trying to decide if he should go on for a Ph.D. Martin is also trying to plan something exciting for this summer and is very open to suggestions.

I currently don't have much to report from my end. After graduation, a couple of short-term job opportunities fell through because of the recession, so I've been hovering between England (where my siblings live) and Slovenia (where my parents live) since then. I've spent my time doing some traveling, applying to thousands of jobs, applying to graduate schools (for film-related programs), and enjoying the free time after a crazy four years of college and before the rest of my life takes over. I am now making progress towards landing an internship in either Europe or Asia, which will hopefully keep me busy until the fall. Until next year.

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Nota Bene

UN Contest Winner

WCP senior **Ann Cashell** is a top-10 winner of the United Nations Foundation's Climate Crews contest. Ann worked with Stephanie Louise Mettler, MU '08, a VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) in Miami's office of community engagement and service, to submit a sustainability proposal for the contest. The contest, held in partnership with the Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, awarded ten \$500 grants for on-campus climate change projects and a trip to the UN Foundation headquarters in Washington, D.C., Feb. 25-26. Ann and Stephanie's proposal focused on projects that could be initiated by an office of sustainability — such as "lights out on campus," suggesting that lights be turned off in classrooms and dorms between noon and 2 p.m., when sunlight is brightest.



Ann

Iraqi Film Festival

Inspired by an Iraqi film festival that she attended while spending her junior year in Amman, Jordan, WCP senior **Amy Peterson** organized one of her own on campus last September: *Baghdad Here: An Iraqi Film Festival*. The four-day program included both feature-length and shorter student-made fiction films and documentaries. In addition, she was able to bring Iraqi filmmaker Bassam Haddad from George Mason University to participate and meet WCPers in a community dinner.



Amy

Amy had seen some of the films in Amman and was able to interact with many exiled Iraqis. She posted this comment on the Western Listserv: "It helped me to put a face on a country that is so often heard of, but rarely understood. I feel that the more we know about the places and people that we influence (and that influence us), the more we can have a prosperous and positive role in the world." She is writing about Iraqi film for her senior project.

From the Archives —

Club Meetings: Dayton and NY/NJ/CT



Above: Dayton's annual holiday luncheon, December 10. Inset: WCP interim director Mary Jean Corbett (left) shares plans for the new program with Diane Heckert Staub '50.

Right: It finally happened: A group of Western folk got together on the East Coast on January 3, at the lovely home of Janey Drexler Sharpe '80 (left, second row from top). Conversations were lively, passionate and opinionated, with topics ranging from school reform to the election of President Obama and pretty much everything in between and beyond.



Miami University, 200 Years Old!

Former WCP dean and WCAA honorary alum **Curt Ellison** is the editor of a special publication celebrating Miami's bicentennial. *Miami University, 1809-2009: Bicentennial Perspectives* is a comprehensive social history of the university, with hundreds of illustrations and contributions from faculty, staff, students, retirees and alumni. Curt is currently professor of history and American studies, as well as director of the William Holmes McGuffey Museum at Miami. The book is available in a deluxe boxed edition (\$100), hardback (\$75) and paperback (\$50). Miami University Bookstore is accepting pre-orders for the book through April 30, saving you 20 percent: <http://www.mubookstore.muohio.edu/>



Two second-semester events sponsored by the Western College Memorial Archives and WCAA, along with the Miami University Libraries, Office of Diversity Affairs and Women's Studies Program, featured Western College alums. Both events were taped and are available at: <http://westernarchives.lib.muohio.edu/>; or contact archivist Jacky Johnson: johnsoj@muohio.edu or 513-529-9695.

Black History Month

Western's own **Janet Smith Dickerson-Stephens '65** was invited by the Office of Diversity Affairs to be the guest speaker for Miami's Black History Celebration on February 10. Currently vice president for campus life at Princeton University, Janet spoke about her years at Western, as well as her experience of racism and its impact on her development and her identity. While on campus, she was interviewed for an oral history, available through the WCMA.



Janet Dickerson (right), holding Western plate just presented by Judy Waldron, WCAA director

Women's History Month



Panelists and sponsors (left to right): Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74, Cam Miller '76, Nick Toth '74, Madelyn Detloff, Judy Waldron, Carl Officer '74, WCMA archivist Jacky Johnson, Michael Eblin '10.

On March 24, three Western alumni who were among the first men to be admitted to Western as students returned to Oxford to share the experience in a panel discussion. Joining the discussion were **Jocelyn Woodson-Reed '74** and **Michael Eblin**, Western Program senior. WCAA director **Judy Waldron** welcomed the audience; Madelyn Detloff, director of Women's Studies, served as facilitator.

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

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**From 2009 Reunion, June 19-21
Through 2010 Reunion, June 18-20**