



Spring Comes to the Western Campus

From the WCAA Director

Dear Westerners,

As I write this article, I am reminded just how extraordinary this world still is. Despite all the struggles and isolation during the pandemic, there were times that joy fought through loud and clear. Zoom connected family and friends (especially Western College alumnae at the virtual reunion!) who had not spoken in years, resulting in belly laughs from good times recollected. People all over the country came together to stand firmly and speak loudly against injustice. College students — despite the financial and academic havoc wreaked by Covid-19 — persevered!



Mackenzie

So, about those belly laughs and reconnections ... We hope you are planning to join us for this virtual Alumnae/i Weekend, June 11-12! *Westerners Worldwide* will honor our five-year anniversary classes as well as focus on Western's international emphasis. Join us for a warm welcome from the WCAA Board and Miami University President Greg and Dr. Renate Crawford, a virtual tour of campus and parade of classes, updates from the WCAA Board at the Annual Meeting, personal stories from current students, a report on our final legacy project: the Western College Legacy Seminars, and interviews with international alumnae from the '50s, '60s, and '70s. We think the Zoom meeting platform will be perfect for the International Student Reunion on June 11th, open to all Westerners — perhaps the largest gathering of former international students to date. The closing program will recognize 2020 and 2021 Service Award recipients, some special honorees, and the five-year anniversary classes.

As for standing united against injustice, I was also reminded more than ever of how good wins out when Miami University honored basketball icon Wayne Embry (Miami '58) and his late wife, Theresa "Terri" Embry (Miami '60) with the Freedom Summer of '64 Award on May 18. The award was created by President Crawford in honor of the Western legacy of Freedom Summer and is bestowed each year upon a distinguished leader who has inspired the nation to advance civil rights and social justice. It's also hoped the Freedom Summer of '64 award ignites a social justice spirit and commitment in current students, faculty, and everyday citizens. Previous winners include Congressman John Lewis; the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, MS; radio broadcaster and civil rights advocate Joe Madison; and our own Western College alumna, **Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins '74**, the first woman of color to be elected president of the League of Women Voters. The award was presented to Wayne and his late wife, Terri, for their lifetime commitment to social justice (including Terri's marching in Selma as a young mother) and for breaking racial barriers. Western's **Lolita McDavid '69** was part of the planning committee and participated in the ceremony. Fittingly, Wayne shared a favorite line from a Diana Ross song: "Reach out and touch somebody's hand/Make this world a better place, if you can." The Embrys have touched lives and advanced social justice in all they have done.

Speaking of making this world a better place, the WCAA Board of Trustees had the opportunity to meet (virtually) some of our incredible scholarship recipients. Miami students, like so many other college students across the country, have encountered storm after storm these past 15 months. For several, the loss was financial as they themselves have lost jobs or their parents have—jobs that were vital to paying tuition. The support of WCAA Scholarships has always made a big difference in the lives of students but, wow, it was clearer than ever that the aid afforded these students was the difference between continuing their education or not. They were articulate and engaging, but — most evidently — really, *really* grateful. You — proud, generous, and extraordinary Westerners — are the reason for their gratitude.

Finally, I leave you with a bit more good news. While 2024 remains the date of the formal closure of the WCAA Inc, the WCAA Board of Trustees is talking with the Miami University Alumni Association (MUAA) about how Western alumnae will continue to be united as an "affinity group" through the MUAA. This will allow us to stay connected and even continue reunions on a smaller scale if we so choose. More to come!

You make this world a better place. Thank you for all you do for Western ... in the Spirit of Western!

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

Mackenzie Becker Rice HA
Director, WCAA

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Mission of the Association:

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

On the cover: Springtime, and Westerners' fancies turn to ...

Photo credit: Copyright
Miami University
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Back cover design: Debbie Baker



BLUE CARDS (see page 27) DUE UPON RECEIPT!

Don't wait for the 2021 Labor Day deadline — send your news and pictures NOW.

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

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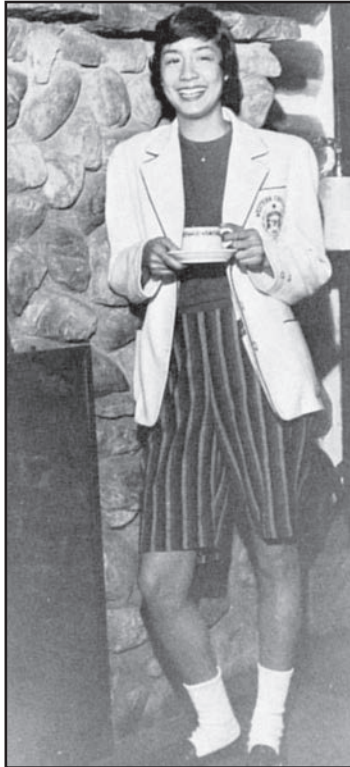
Associate Director

Debbie Baker HA

What's on Your Mind

Once again (see Fall/Winter 2020, p. 6) a Bulletin Class Rep received a classmate's letter she felt should be shared with all our readers. We contacted the writer, **Barbara Kong Vlachos '60**, to ask her permission to feature it here. Thanks to both Barb and Class Rep **Jan Sandroock MacEwen**, here are her heartfelt and eloquent words only slightly edited.

On the occasion of our 61st anniversary year of our graduation, I would just like to send fondest greetings to all our classmates, upper and lower class schoolmates who all imprinted my life so completely. I entered Western as a foreign student from Hawaii, on the recommendation of my Bishop Harry S. Kennedy, and his dear friend, Bishop Crittenden, [*father of Joan Crittenden Seiffert '59*]. In truth, the Church brought me to Western. I was thrilled to be classified as a foreign student and be amongst all the wonderful young ladies from all over Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East ... it truly opened my eyes to life outside the most isolated tiny islands in the world, that I came from. I loved every minute of it!!



Barb Kong, from the 1960 Multi

Having said that, I have to mention how our age group has lived through the most incredible changes in life, and the world, from 1960 to 2021. Vietnam War Protests. We lived through all the times so well documented in the movie that Forrest's dear girlfriend, Jenny, lived through, and then some!!

I just have to commend what a great honor it is to have been shaped and formed by Western. I am awed at what an international-Before-its-Time-single-sex-College it was, and I was endeared to it immediately on learning what a successful Underground Railroad Station it was. Its history fascinated me!! Although Western prided itself in being founded in 1853, my High School in Hawaii was founded in 1841, but I never mentioned that!! The friendships I made at Western have been lifelong.

Nancy Kohlman [Freeman] and I were joined at the hip from the beginning. Sitting in alphabetical order in Chapel and Vespers, we were *Kohlman, Kong*!! We still keep in touch — **Betty [Milligan] Kipp**, **Claudia White [Gilmartin]**, my first roommate — all of these ladies are from our

first year dorming at Peabody Hall. Also there was **Sydney Stout [Benson]**. She came to Hawaii for the 50th anniversary of her marriage to Pete Benson ... and then came again and we reconnected for her 80th birthday. That was a marvelous reunion!!

I try to keep in touch with **Ruthie Wong [Roza]**. I remain in touch with **Corinne Tietjens [Sommer] '61** and her family. It's ridiculous that I only ran into **Rowena Toomey '62** [*deceased January 2018*], living on this same island for all those years, about three times...!!

I cherish my years at Western and the impact of life as we knew it will never be duplicated. When our generation is gone ... nobody will know ... our Alumnae Association will be gone ... life in the '50s will be a mirage...!! Thanks be to God for our years ... I hold fast to the faith that "God is in Charge"!! Coming from the ALOHA State, we believe and practice LOVE and it is my JOY to extend it, and share it with all of YOU!

— Barbara Kong Vlachos '60

Also included is Barb's personal afterword (or perhaps foreword) to Jan:

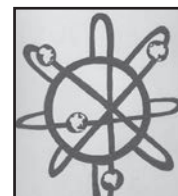
"Dear Jan,

"I certainly hesitated responding to you, like a lot of the kids, probably because the country has such strong opinions of what is truth, what is honorable, who and what our sources of information, knowledge, and wisdom are. The degree of dissension in this country is overwhelming. It's hard for people to even talk about it. Anyhow, I hope that I did not write anything that would offend anybody!! I just thought it needed to be said how much history and change we have seen in our lifetime. **I am so grateful for my years at Western. I just wished to convey that!!!**"

We think she succeeded!!!!



Barb today



Apt images from the 1960 Multi (edited by the junior class): '61 flag (left) and '60 flag

From the WCAA Board President

HOPE and SPIRIT! If you are searching for something hopeful to hold in your mind to help your spirit keep growing during these challenging times, I have something to offer: our Western College legacy — what we leave as our personal and institutional stamp. I hope you will be as thrilled as I am with what is evolving, and that you will feel a shared satisfaction of meaningful accomplishment with us. One that brings hope and enlivens our Western spirit.



Fran

I need to back up a bit. When Western College closed its doors in 1974, there were hard feelings toward Miami. That was a dark time in our history, a painful time. Some of those feelings have lasted over the years, and a rift is sometimes palpable even now when the subject is raised. Our Board is aware of those sentiments. But Miami has changed significantly and WCAA interaction with the university has as well. As we approach dissolution in 2024, I see opportunity for satisfaction and comfort across our varied WCAA community in the legacy we will leave as Western College alumnae and for the institution we so loved, our alma mater, our “nourishing mother.”

Here are some stories that help paint the picture of the double transformation in process ... Our articulation agreements with Miami University and the MU Foundation set our date of dissolution as June 30, 2024, a full 50 years after our mother institution closed its doors. We have done well as an alumnae association and now we need to close up shop and close it well. Follow the agreements and call it done. That seemed fine. We would be properly passive. **But really, are we Western women ever “properly passive”?** We wanted to get this right and shape it to our wishes.

Our Board went to work, setting up a grid of tasks to be sure we covered our responsibilities. A lawyer was consulted to make certain that we were in compliance with state statutes and to answer our questions. Then, at the suggestion of our Executive Director Mackenzie Rice, the Board engaged in a series of Strategic Planning Sessions in November and December 2020. to help us determine our closing strategy. Sharon Mitchell, current President of the MU Foundation, offered to serve as our volunteer consultant for this series of sessions. Identifying the tasks and setting our institutional closing strategy unified and empowered us ... and gave us hope for a stronger lasting legacy through Miami. Through these two efforts, we recognized what we wanted as our legacy, what was completed, and what needed to be done.

Meanwhile at Miami exciting, transformations are occurring that align the university more closely with our Western Spirit. Some are symbolic: under President Crawford’s lead-

ership, the “*Spirit of Western College Award* was established to recognize those in the Miami community whose work exemplifies Western’s mission; WCAA was awarded the President’s Medallion honoring those who exemplify Miami’s code of “*Love and Honor*,” a Western alumna has been granted an honorary degree from Miami, and others have been invited to give keynote addresses at major Miami events.

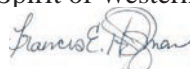
Some have been academic, such as the creation of the Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation, and hiring two new deans, impressive women who emphasize diversity and innovation, to lead critical departments: New Zealander Dr. Jenny Darrock was chosen to lead the Farmer School of Business, and Maylasian-Indian Dr. Beena Sukumaran will head the Department of Engineering and Computing.

And some have been actions that honor values for living one’s life. This includes President Crawford’s response to an incident in Oxford in which a former Miami professor shouted racial slurs at peaceful demonstrators following the murder of George Floyd. A special President’s Initiative on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) was established and a special task force of faculty, staff and students was immediately formed to recommend action. Upon learning of this, our WCAA donated funds to help support President Crawford’s Initiative. Several WCAA board members were invited to participate in the Town Hall Meetings that were held to vet the recommendations prior to finalization, and shortly thereafter, the WCAA representatives held discussions with the co-chairs of the Task Force and then with the President and his DEI coordinator. More than 75% of the recommendations have been acted upon to date.

With these shifts, there may be interest on the part of Western alums to become more active in the Miami community. With the right combination of interest, expertise and time, Western alums could be considered for service on Miami advisory committees or as mentors. Initial explorations for setting up such opportunities have been well received. We are being honored, welcomed and supported by Miami.

In closing, I assure you that we can all have comfort and pride in how we are approaching dissolution. Our formal legacy is nearly complete: our scholarship endowments and our professorship are sustainable and the Legacy Circle is complete. ***Our final legacy fund-raising project, the Western College Legacy Seminars, is more than half way to its goal.*** We are on time and in step, and we want you with us.

In the Spirit of Western,



Frances Hoffman '65
President, WCAA Board of Trustees

Western College Legacy Seminars . . .

Western College for Women is nearing fifty years of closure as an independent academic institution. Seems most of us have reached the point in our lives where we are spending more and more quality time reflecting back on our lives. The reason why each of us ended up in Oxford at a place called Western College is different. When we come together at reunions, it's fun to share these stories and discover how varied were the paths to Oxford. As we project WCAA closure in June 2024, are we adequately taking the time to reflect and acknowledge the fact that our education at Western most likely had a profound effect on our lives?

When we were young (and probably a bit foolish), we didn't know the full impact of what we were experiencing on our beloved campus. Only when we look backward through the lens of the passing decades do we realize the full impact of the art of critical thinking, the importance of understanding the world we live in, respecting the rich cultural and religious diversity, and the influence of professors who deeply cared about our lives. Even today — let's admit it — we smile when we think of their names: **Phyllis Hoyt, Gail James, Frank Esterquest, Ruth Limmer, Margaret Barrier, Isabel S. John Bliss, Julia Rothermel, Thomas Bisson, Donavon Auble, Al Sugg, Ed Chapman, Alice Blich, Richard Monaco**, and others.

In 2018, the WCAA Board of Trustees began collaborating with the Arts and Science Department at Miami University to define a living and lasting legacy, the **Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation (WCSII)**. The Center would act as a focal point to help coordinate and integrate the many activities centered on social responsibility at Miami University. It would utilize the crucial and inspirational legacy of Western College as a foundation in determining biennial social impact themes to focus on.

As our final Western College legacy project, the WCAA has elected to raise funds to support the Western College Legacy Seminars (WCLS) to enrich the programming of the Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation. The seminars will feature visiting scholars and faculty, public lectures open to the community, and internship opportunities, bringing together students, faculty, alumni, and visiting experts to explore solutions to global issues. The first social impact theme, initiated fall 2019 (see page 00) has been "global water insecurity."

Your WCAA Board wanted a final legacy initiative to reflect the Spirit of Western that lives on. Our financial commitment is to raise \$500,000 for the **Western College Legacy Seminars**. But, we think we can raise so much more! We want the **Seminars** to become world-class by making them well-funded. If we all work together — either making a one-time donation of any amount or considering bequest and planned giving options — we can create a legacy that will keep on living and giving.

Financial advisors are available to help you think through your options. Just contact Debbie, Sharry or Judy. (See box below.) The best part is that Miami University President Greg Crawford considers **The Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation — including the Western College Legacy Seminars** — one of his highest priorities and, thus, is investing Miami's time, money, and resources to ensure its growth.



Sharry



Judy

. . . Our Final Living Legacy Project

Years from now, long after we are gone, seminar participants will look back on their involvement in one of many timely issues being explored and recognize how their “aha” moment sparked something deep within them. Thus, we can rest assured that the living legacy of the Western Spirit is not gone, but is very much alive. Please, contribute generously this one last time. What a beautiful way to fulfil the visionary words of **Dean Phyllis Hoyt**, defining what we call the Western Spirit: ... *the essence of Western is hard to catch. It cannot be bought. It cannot be sold. It cannot be captured. It cannot be mimicked. It is too full of zest for that. Think of it carried comfortably by each of you wherever you may be around the world, next September or fifty years from now ... Our limits are the limits of our lives and the lives we touch from now on.*

A last and living legacy, indeed!

— Sharry Patterson Addison '61

— Judy Dudman Henderson '62

Co-chairs, Legacy Committee

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Alumnae/i Weekend 2021: Reunion Preview

*“Westerners Worldwide,” the theme of our 2021 Alumnae/i Weekend, celebrates our international then-students, now-alumnae. The highlight of the reunion will be a Zoom presentation of Zoom interviews conducted by WCAA trustees, asking them to tell us how they learned about Western, why they attended, what their favorite memories are, how their time at Western influenced their lives, and what they’ve done since college: career, family, life experience ... and finally, have they been back?! When trustee **Fran Hoffman ’65** contacted **Mieke Van Waveren Smit ’54**, Mieke obliged by writing the following essay.*

When Senator William Fulbright had the brilliant idea to have the sales revenues of war materials go toward international education and president Truman signed the act into law, the announcement that deserving students all over the world could apply for a scholarship did not go unnoticed.

When it appeared on my high school bulletin board, I immediately signed up and after a couple of interviews at the U.S. Embassy and Dutch ministry of education, I was notified that I was one of seven undergraduate students going to the U.S. on a scholarship.

At that time many American colleges and universities opened their doors to foreign students offering scholarships (not just Fulbright grants) and these were all administered by the Institute of International Education in New York. Western was one of those schools, and that was where I was assigned. Western already had experience with foreign students, mostly from South America, but after WW2 it welcomed European students as well.

And so, in the fall of 1951, I set sail for the U.S. and by way of New York and the B & O arrived in Oxford, OH. My family had been somewhat concerned because Oxford did not appear on any of maps we had, but our American relatives assured us that Western College for Women did exist.

My Dutch school had prepared me pretty well and I don’t recall having any problem following the classes. I signed up for everything I was interested in: art, history, philosophy, political science and Dr. Rothermel’s biology class. The atmosphere was very welcoming and I felt at home right away. The best thing was the invitation to spend Thanksgiving with my new “best friend” in Canton, OH. Her family would become my home away from home for the next three years and she and I are still in touch. After our graduation she came to Holland and got to know my family. Ten years later, when we were living in Germany, her mother came and

spent a week with us and I showed her much of my country.

My scholarship was renewed, I received a year’s credit for my high school work and stayed three years, graduating in ’54. I majored in religion. Not because I was very religious, but because I was brought up in a very strict Calvinistic environment and felt somewhat suffocated. To clear my horizon I wanted to know more about other people’s religions and philosophies. It was quite revealing and I ended up a lifelong agnostic with fewer certainties and more questions. Certainly a wonderful preparation for the life that was ahead of me.

My reentry in 1954 and the unexpected culture shock left me uncertain about my future, and I decided to work for a while. I found a job with the General Tire Company in Amsterdam, and ended up doing a lot of translating of their publicity materials for the Dutch market. I joined the Halve Maen (named for Henri Hudson’s ship), the organization where many Fulbright students (present and ex) got together, met my husband (also a Fulbright recipient) and got married a year later. That’s when my life as a trailing spouse began.

After three years we decided to emigrate to the U.S. and spent the next five years between Chicago and Elmira, NY. Once we had our U.S. citizenship (1964), Remington Rand (Hendrik’s employer) sent us to Brussels and, after a couple of years, to Frankfurt. Not exactly what we had planned to do, but our language skills were a determining factor. Our three children had to make adjustments to new languages and schools and thrived. The Western experience had made me flexible and welcoming change.

The next move took us back to the Netherlands (1968) and I was not excited. There was nothing to learn. The children loved it, we had a boat and explored the



Mieke Van Waveren,
1954 Multi

waterways; they got to see grandparents and cousins, but I was bored. Fortunately, I discovered an advanced French program at the nearby university and enrolled for some serious studying. Four years later I received my degree and was immediately employed at the local college for tourism. Loved it ... It could not have been a better preparation for the next step when Hendrik accepted a job as Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels. Speaking both French and Dutch was a real asset in that bilingual country.

If Western had prepared me well for living internationally, this was it. And being part of the diplomatic community was a privilege. I soon discovered that many expatriates arrived without the tools for living abroad. The Community Help Service could assist them in finding schools, doctors, and I recall helping some wives do their first grocery shopping.

The Braille League needed volunteers to help the blind participate in social programs and, for almost 20 years, I became a designated driver and helper. Impossible to describe the experience in one paragraph, but I certainly learned what it is like to depend on others for almost everything.

And then there was life in the diplomatic community and the amazing learning opportunities it offered. The exploration of the country, the concerts, visits to the museums. It was an enriching experience never to be erased from memory.

In 1999, we decided it was time to go home and we moved back to the U.S. Knowing that we would want to travel for a while, we decided to move to a retirement community on Hilton Head Island (we already had been visiting for six years) so we would have our freedom. We scaled down and said goodbye to Brussels, with a great deal of uncertainty and doubt.

We soon discovered that HH had a very active music community and a “young” international piano competition. We became involved both with the orchestra and the competition and we have hosted a contestant almost every year. I forgot to mention earlier that I have been an ardent student of piano for many years and never stopped taking lessons. That hobby has lasted me for a lifetime.

We started our travels and, on one of our trips, a young Ukrainian pianist played for our group in Odessa. It is a long story, but with the help of a lot of people



Mieke in 2011 at the Hamburg Steinway given her by husband Henk on their 10th anniversary. She has taken it everywhere they go and never stopped taking lessons — in German, French, Dutch, and now English!

and considerable fund-raising, this 13-year-old girl has since completed her studies at the Peabody Institute (undergraduate), the Frost school of Music (U of Miami, master's) and more recently her D.M.A. at Stony Brook University. She married a wonderful cellist and now has a little girl. As you can imagine, Dasha has become the story of my life and I feel in so many ways that it totally completes my Western experience. I received a great gift and was able to pass it on to another young person. What could be more in the Spirit of Western!

Yes, I have been back several times for a reunion. And if I am still around, I would love to come back in 2024. At 92? Who knows ...



*Logo: Reunion 2007
“All Western, All
Around the World”*

“All together now!” — *The Beatles*



It was a joy to touch base with several classmates. **Pat Wilson Haines** did share that her husband Roy died of Covid on December, and **Joanne DuBois Shafer** shared the news of her husband Walter “Shaf” passing a little before that time.

I did have a good phone call with **Pat Creighton Snyder** in Louisville, KY. She is hard of hearing, but we did well during the call.

I also talked with **Carol Lipe Wendt**, who still lives in the home her husband built for them early in their marriage, in Antonita, CO.



Lesters' homemade 2020 Christmas card: Jean and Cliff, lower right

Jean Fuller Lester is doing well, and has been able to continue her tennis lessons, enjoy more free time to read and do home projects, and attend Zoom Quaker Meeting with Cliff all through this lock down time.

My personal boost has been the Zoom call in December, set up by Debbie Baker from Patterson Place. **Betty Sipe Gerber** was our emcee, and we were pleased to see and/or hear **Nancy Ryan Rietz**, **Donna Schulz Bloom**, **Chris Davis Vradelis**, and **Joyce Rinckhoff Snell** joining in, sharing memories as well as their life updates.

Jacky Johnson HA, Miami University archivist joined in to fill us in on the activities in her department — which includes the Western College Memorial Archives — and we were treated to the video of today's campus that Debbie had prepared for the virtual Zoom all alumnae/i reunion in June 2020. That video is available to all on the Western College website and the Facebook page.

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Looking back at the past year it seems that it was dominated by the Coronavirus and the political scene. By the time this Bulletin appears, I trust that both of these concerns will have been resolved.

Only a few classmates were in touch with me this year, but sadly we've received one report of a death: **Peggy Reichelderfer Morrison**, in November 2020. I've no doubt many of you have been worried about friends and family being exposed to Covid 19 and wondered when vaccines would be available to everyone. Hopefully, those concerns are now behind us.

So, with good wishes to each of you, I remain your faithful Class Representative, eager to hear from you in the months ahead.

Sandra Franz Barnes '54
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June Regan Young notified me of her roommate, **Judy Weir Vandergriff's** death. After a long and happy marriage, Judy suffered several years of confusion brought on by dementia. Thankfully, she is now at peace. In June's words: "Wow, what a year it has been. We've all made it through and face the New Year with hope, faith, and determination." She and Dave enjoyed their annual Florida trip before the COVID-19 restrictions began. Then, June's crafting, painting, knitting, and baking were all put on hold because of eye surgery which kept her immobile, face down for a week. She is recovering from that difficult time with her usual optimism.

Juli Beasley Kinchla's words were ones of inspiration and positivity: "I have found the quarantine experience to have many silver linings — a new-found joy in nesting-in, enhanced appreciation of simple pleasures and genuine gratitude in being alive."

Phyllis Yeamans Bailey enjoys her grand piano at her home in Brierfield on the Little Cahaba River. Her granddaughter lives in the guest house, so she is not totally alone. They walk together, enjoying the beautiful

trees, woods, the river, waterfalls, and in the spring the lovely flowers. When the time is right, she will return to her apartment at The Capstone, a residential community on The University of Alabama campus.

Marie Uveges Holt experienced the new norm by being forced to spend holidays alone, but she looks forward to becoming a great-grandmother for the fourth time in July. She continues to enjoy her computer games and playing bridge and word games designed to keep her mind sharp. That's the way to go, Marie.

Linda Rennie Forcey has found comfort and security at Shell Point Retirement Community in Ft. Myers, FL. Even while facing the isolation from family and friends, she enjoys activities with her new friends there while talking politics, past lives, present fears, and the aging process. She also plays tennis and finds time to read many wonderful books. Her 3-year-old Tabby cat has become her best friend and even joins the group therapy sessions.

For years I have wondered about **Jette Mohr Handley** and by some luck and much sleuthing, I found her in a retirement community near Jacksonville. I pleaded with the administration for her number and we had a marvelous conversation. We all remember you so fondly, Jette.

Sadly, I share the news of another classmate's passing. **Anne Walthart McMains** died January 29th, 2021, of congestive heart failure.



Anne

As I put together these few messages from classmates, I am reminded of a quote from one of my favorite authors, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross: "I believe that we are solely responsible for our choices, and we have to accept the consequences of every deed, word, and thought throughout our lifetime." One more quote which I share with you: "You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realize this and you will find strength." Marcus Aurelius.

I chose to finish two method books which had been on the back burner for several years and I decided to continue teaching violin to students from ages 6 to 70. Best of all, I re-connected with former students via Facebook and Zoom.

Do you remember singing the following words in one of our songs: "For your eyes that meet us with a smile and your hand that pulls us through a trial"?



Happy Days! Reunion ??, from the album of Anne Walthart McMains '58, contributed by her son, Andy McMains

Love to all from Somerset ...

Jennie Lou Fredley Klim '58
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As we all look back on 2020, we can list the plans we had that were curtailed; the holiday celebrations we were used to, canceled; and everything that was normal about our lives, turned upside down. If nothing else, it forced us to realize how good we'd had it. And how much we missed it.

Sara White Arn moved into a senior residence in St. Louis a couple years ago. One of the reasons for the move was to have people to eat with. Of course, as of this winter, all that changed. Between the pandemic and a broken frozen pipe in the dining room's sprinkler system, their meals were delivered to their doors in Styrofoam and plastic. Sadly, one of Sara's sons-in-law died in June. But continuing the circle of life, the family welcomed another great-grandchild — which adds up to four babies under 2!

Patty Rees Dewey and family enjoyed a cruise in the Western Caribbean after Christmas and had just returned to their condo on Singer Island, FL, when Covid began to take over the news. They soon returned to their summer home in Newburgh, IN. Patty hopes, as we all do, that 2021 will be year of healing — of mind and body, of community and nation.

Floridian **Sally "Doodie" Allen Masters**, resides in a club in Naples that carefully

opened in April to lots of outdoor shared meals. She feels very lucky to be able to keep up with her golf, tennis, and Pickleball. But has had no luck, as of this writing, to get a vaccine and therefore has not seen her family for over a year.

I was so happy to hear from **Isabel Oteo-De Martinez**, who was sad not to be able to attend our reunion last year. She is dealing with some health issues and hopes to learn more soon. She too has

grandchildren in college and high school plus two "adorable" ones in Connecticut she hasn't been able to see. Her son just bought an apartment in Acapulco that sleeps 10 if anyone is looking for a rental for a south-of-the-border vacation!

Jackie Power Sheldrick and friends got "caught" in Florida when the pandemic began to make news. They arrived back in Detroit to a ghostly empty airport and spent the rest of the year at home. She and several friends figured out how to play bridge online and did so for many months. She is now planning another trip to Florida soon.

Jackie's sister **Annette "Toni" Power Johnson** loves her residence at Woodland Pond in New Paltz, NY. Covid certainly reduced her activities, but she was able to keep walking and swimming with friends. Happily, she feels safe there and reports that 99% of the residents have been vaccinated. She is the recording secretary of the Residents Council.

Ann Hammond writes from Tustin, CA, that, like everybody else, she is staying home but "slowly going nuts"! She reports that even her dog, Eloise, is fed up with all the walking. She and a friend take their lunch and do weekly road trips into the mountains or down to the beach where they watch whales off the coast at Dana Point.

Coming in under the wire was a letter from **Nancy Johnson Marshall**, who continues to love life in Boise. Most of her family is nearby so they get together often outside following all the rules. She too played lots of bridge online with friends, walked the track in a gym and used every streaming device most of us never even knew existed before all this!

The ever-busy **Kathleen Howard Sutherland** writes from Maine that Zoom played a big part in their lives this year. She taught all

four seasons of classes at the Senior College of Southern Maine. Kathie was juried into two art exhibits with her pastels: the first into her Senior College magazine and the other, the Arizona Pastel Artists' Association Virtual Art Show happening this spring. She is still active on the board of the World Affairs Council of Maine. Happily for Kathie, eldest daughter Heather and husband have just relocated to Maine from California while the rest of the family can still be found around the country.

Roomie **Sally Hoover Harris** in Signal Mountain, TN, expressed on my birthday card the thoughts of many and that is the disbelief that we are all somehow in our 80s! Happily, life goes on and grandchildren grow up. The Harris have two in college, plus a high school senior boy and three younger girls. The virus has avoided Sally and husband Tom.

Nancy Kohlman Freeman left us in Connecticut for Bluffton, SC, a couple years ago but admits she still misses the north. She is in touch with **Susie Peterson Sabin** and **Betty Milligan Kipp**, who live about an hour away in Savannah. She also reports that **Barbara Kong Vlachos** is doing well in Honolulu. (Hey you guys, how about writing me!)

McKee buddy **Val Clark Cook**, feels lucky to have her entire family in the area including three great-grandchildren whom she helps with whenever she can. She has recently been able to return to her favorite volunteer work at the Assistance League of Atlanta where they, among other things, donate profits from their shop to help thousands of underprivileged children find clothing to wear to school.

This past year has been tough for **Susan Wylie Moran**, who lives at Country House, a senior residence in Wilmington, DE. Husband Peter was housed at their health care facility for over a year with weakness issues. In the early stages of Covid, Susan was unable to visit him for over three months. He came home just before Christmas and with a little bit of morning help is doing well. She continues to play golf and do PR *pro bono* work for a pet therapy organization, with whom she used to volunteer, and marketing and PR for the local zoo. She stays in touch with **Ann Gingrich Kuehn**, who is also doing well in Wilmington, OH.

The first person to respond to my call for news was **Claudia "Whit" White Gilmar-tin**. She had been taking care of her sister, who is now in a long-term care facility. In August her beach profiling team resumed under the auspices of the University of New Hampshire. As you can imagine, getting back to work and back on the beach was exhilarating! Three younger members of her family contracted mild cases of Covid but are now doing well.

Cathy Bauer Cooper spent the month of March on the beach in St. Simons Island, GA. This year (her 11th but first without Coop) she had help: son Matt drove her (and the two Cooper cats — the 11th year for them too) down, daughter Katy drove them home, and sister **Judy Bauer '62** flew down for a week-long visit mid-March.

When their Rec Center closed, Pete and **Sydney Stout Benson** began enjoying daily walks in local parks and trails around Medina, OH. After 27 years of chairing their church's Circle of Caring, Syd decided it was time to turn over the reins. However, she continues to be involved in making phone calls to folks in care facilities. Her book club has also started up again with social distancing. The Bensons celebrated Christmas in October with their California family, who flew in for the occasion, and Christmas outside on a warm day in November with their Wooster family.

I was so pleased hear from **Pei Ying Liu Hsiang** after a very long time. She writes "Life has twists & turns, gains & losses" — and her life has been no different. After Western, she earned an M.A. in embryology, married, had three children, taught preschool, lost two children and got divorced. Since then she has done extensive traveling. She now lives in a senior residence in Princeton where she is having the "time of her life"! She is thankful for her two beautiful and bright grandchildren and sends us her regards.

Carol "Coop" Cooper Henry's family has got to be the most in-shape among us! Between swimming and racing, they are all involved. This year's stars are daughter Annie and her brother, Charlie, who will be doing the Ironman Triathlon in Lake Placid. Carol and husband Bill spent a number of weeks in Florida this past year enjoying warmer weather. Son Bill won an Emmy for his editing of the last episode of season two of the HBO drama *Succession*. He was one of eight top editors vying for the prize. One of his mentors was the late Mike Nichols.

Maurie Fischer's life is never simple! Having retired from a successful career in Human Resources, this past year she dealt with a sick '72 AMC Matador that kept needing repairs each time it came home from the shop. Her next-door neighbors displayed some odd behavior that Maurie needed to set straight! Arthritis cropped up in a number of places. And always a worry about fires in her San Joaquin Valley, but so far so good. All in all she is pretty happy with her current lot — even with being in her 80s!

I had a wonderful, long email from **Barbara Kong Vlachos** in Honolulu. [Read more in "What's on Your Mind," p. 5.] Because lots of Hawaii had been closed down this past year, Barb admits to enjoying her somewhat quiet bubble. She concedes the

best part of all is having the time to tend to her yard and begin a major cleaning and clearing out of years of "stuff." She cooks more, runs errands safely, attends in-person church, and reports that she and her two little dogs are loving it as the three of them "grow old together." She keeps in touch with **Nancy Freeman, Betty Kipp, Claudia Gilmartin, Ruthie Wong Roza and Corinne Tietjens '61**.



Barbara Kong Vlachos '60

Alice Anderson Stallings moved from her retirement community in Georgia to live with her younger daughter when everyone began quarantining. Her older daughter and family live in Greece but Alice hopes to see them this summer as Alicia teaches poetry every summer at the Writers Conference at the University of the South.

I expect you agree that 2020 was a very long year — with not much to report from Connecticut except that we **MacEwens** are thankfully well and still upright! "The shot" was the #1 topic of discussion around here for months! I guess my only accomplishment was learning how to record the alto part of choral Christmas music into my iPhone's voice recorder while hearing it played into my ear buds from my laptop and while videoing myself on a third device. Definitely a steep learning curve! Tons of thanks to all of you who answered my plea for news. Stay well.

Jan Sandrock MacEwen '60
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2020 was certainly a [#!@!&*#!] year (fill in your own expletive) for many of us, a year that will no doubt live in infamy. So let me dispense with the saddest news first: the passing of four of our beloved classmates (with information borrowed from their official obituaries):

Gwendolyn Dixon West passed away on July 29, 2020, after a short illness. Born in Detroit, MI, Gwen majored in political science at Western. While in Oxford, she met and married Dave R. West, the father of their two children, Miles and Shannon. The Wests moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor, MI, to Allentown, PA, and to Tallahassee, FL, before settling in Randallstown, MD, in 1977. They were among the first black families to live in Randallstown. After divorcing,

Gwen worked hard to maintain her home and to support and educate her children. Professionally, she primarily worked in the social services and nonprofit arenas. In 2001 Gwen earned a master's degree from the University of Phoenix in organizational management. Her next position before retiring in 2010 was Contract Specialist for the Mayor's Office of Employment Development for Baltimore. Church was an important part of Gwen's life. For more than 30 years, she was an active congregant at the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Randallstown. Always possessing diverse interests, Gwen was an excellent seamstress and tailor who made her own and family's clothes, including her own wedding dress. She also excelled as a baker, developing a business called Spirited Desserts. Gwen enjoyed traveling, especially cruises to the Mediterranean and Alaska and tours of Iceland and South Africa. Gwen will be long remembered for "her love of life, her great sense of humor, and her hats — her crowning glory." She is survived by her son and daughter (an M.D.), her grandson Jordan, her sister and brother, a number of sisters and brothers-in-law, and many other relatives and friends.

Vivien Despotopoulos Forbes of North Reading, MA (formerly of Salem, MA), died on October 28, 2020, following an extended illness. Proficient since childhood in the language and culture of Greece, Viv especially enjoyed expanding her language learning at Western. She took pride, too, in being among the first students to inhabit the French House on campus, as well as being a four-year member of Dr. Monaco's Western Choir and the Chair of Clawson during our senior year. After earning her B.A., Viv (my Western roommate for four years) studied at La Sorbonne in Paris, France, and received her M.A. from L'Ecole Francaise at Middlebury College in Vermont. She taught French and Spanish at Salem's secondary schools for many years, was an active member of the Grace Episcopal Church Choir in Salem for 15 years and also of the Paul Madore Chorale for 20 years. A member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, Vivien's volunteer work included a seat on the Salem Cultural Council. At her nursing facility, she acted as Resident Council President, representing resident concerns for several years. A loving mother of two daughters, Jessica and Erika, beloved grandmother of Claudia Knopes, as well as a sister and an aunt, Viv will be deeply missed by her many family members and friends.

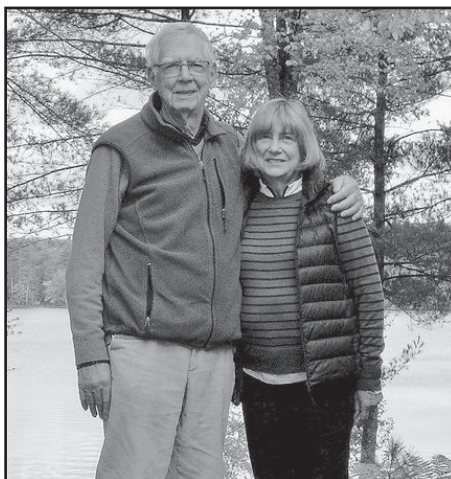
Patricia Jeanne Scott was born in Wheeling, WV, and grew up in St. Clairsville, OH, where after graduation from the local high school, she attended Western. Pat spent much time working at the local radio station while at Western and graduated with a B.A. in political science. She married, moved to Maryland, and gave birth to her daughter, Shay. In 1966, Pat began a teaching career that lasted for over 30 years in Anne Arundel

County and Cecil County Public Schools in Maryland as well as at Caravel Academy in Bear, DE. Upon retirement, Pat went to work at Aberdeen Proving Grounds as a Distance Learning coordinator and later as a college recruiter for Albright College in Pennsylvania. A member of the Delta Kappa Gamma sorority for professional educators, Pat completed a program for Education for Ministry through the University of the South School of Theology in 2009. Her favorite activities included reading, beach walks, gardening, volunteering as a guide at the Turkey Point Lighthouse in North East, MD, and serving as a lay reader at her church. Pat cherished being the grandmother of Brittany, Andrew, and Holly Weddell and the great-grandmother of Mila-Rose. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman, in 2017. Pat succumbed to Parkinson's Disease in January 2021 and will be especially missed by all members of her family — three sisters, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews — and her friends.

Cynthia "Cyndy" Smith Bailes passed away peacefully on February 21, 2021, in Oak Ridge, TN, after losing her battle with cancer. Born in Hollywood, FL, she graduated from Abbot Academy in Andover, MA. Cyndy attended Western until she married and moved to Oak Ridge, completing her B.A. in English at the University of Tennessee (UT). She went on to complete an M.S. in English education followed by an M.B.A. at UT and then an A.A.S. in math at Roane State Community College. After several years of teaching, Cyndy moved into nonprofit work, where she found her niche. Through the years, Cyndy was actively involved with many organizations and served on many of their boards. These included as President of the YWCA and AAUW Boards (1969-72), member of the National YWCA Board (1973-84), Oak Ridge UU Church Board president, and both president and treasurer of District 4 Altrusa. Cyndy loved entertaining and spending time with friends and family. Even while dealing with the impacts of cancer, she continued to host bridge games and weekend game nights when her health allowed. (Westerners will certainly remember Cyndy's love of card games!) She also had a lifelong love for the seashore, especially in New England. Preceded in death by her parents, a half-brother, a son, and a stepson, Cyndy is mourned by her sister and family, her daughter, Darcie Holcomb, stepdaughter, Debby Vose, granddaughters, Ansleigh Holcomb and Maggie Vose, as well as many other loved ones, friends, and co-workers.

Rest in Peace, Gwen, Vivien, Pat, and Cyndy!

In her annual Christmas card, **Carolyn Moss Ford** shared family photos and her news, the most joyful being the arrival of granddaughter Nora, daughter of Melissa



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

and Dan, who joined sister Lena, age 6 ½, and brother Charlie, age 3 ½, in November. In her February 2021 email, Mossy pointed out that in such challenging times, she and David were trying their best to remain healthy and safe. She missed their family who all live out west and expressed amazement at how these young families were coping, with both parents working at home while schooling their children on line. The senior Fords were fortunate to spend the summer months at their cottage, feeling much less vulnerable to Covid-19 there. Mossy kept busy playing online bridge several times a week, attending interesting garden club workshops, taking Later Learning in Retirement courses at Glendon College (also virtual), joining a ladies golf league up north, and doing lots of walking with David and friends. Living in her "small bubble" since March 2020, Mossy felt that their relative isolation would have to continue for quite a while. Ontario was currently under a stay home order, which Mossy hoped would continue to protect them from the virus variants. "Canada has really screwed up with securing vaccines, so we're not sure when we will get them ... hoping before the summer. It's amazing what these brilliant minds have accomplished in such a short time."

In late January, **Jan Wood Beaven** emailed her Covid news: "My year has been made much happier by my having met Ron Anderson, with whom I have been 'socially isolating.' Although Ron had retired from his medical practice at Brigham Hospital, he has returned to be part of the bedside and clinical teaching program at Brigham. Since March, his interactions have been restricted to conferences and teaching on Zoom. He loves medicine and hopes to resume his active role when Covid is under control. In the meantime, we fill our daily lives with daily walks, indoor exercise, reading, news programs, TV shows, old movies, and most of all keeping in touch with our families who are thriving in this extremely difficult time. I can only imagine what it is like to be a teenager limited to learning from a computer screen

and to individual outdoor pursuits. They will emerge as my heroes."

Gay Nellis Walker wrote in late January also and asked that we update her address (205 Floyd Ave., #14, Modesto, CA 95350), noting that she bought her condo in 2012. Referring to 2020 as the "weird year," Gay wrote, "Suddenly, around mid-March, everything came to a halt. No more singing, volunteering, classes, seeing friends, eating out, etc. My hair is down to my shoulders. You've heard of the Freshman Fifteen? Well, I have put on the Covid Nineteen! It's amazing how much exercise one gets in normal, everyday life, and one is now missing." Gay went on to say that Zoom has kept her sane. She started a weekly Family Zoom chat, helping her to keep in touch. A small singing group that Gay had joined just before lockdown is now meeting weekly via Zoom; and though they can't actually sing together well, they try to do so. She also takes her two-hour yoga class three times a week using Zoom. "Zoom is nice, but I sure miss real people!" For a while, Gay reports, she did some "Marie Condo-type organizing," and got rid of 10 bags of stuff. She started baking bread again, made and had to cancel reservations to Maui, Puerto Vallarta, and Ohio, and has "read more books than ever in a year." (Gay recommends as her favorite book: *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan, based on a true story, but a real page-turner of a novel.) A highlight since the pandemic: a couple of trips to a nearby wildlife refuge, where she saw thousands of sandhill cranes, spending their winter in the Central Valley wetlands. Gay ended her message on a positive note: she had just gotten her first Pfizer shot, so things were starting to look up, and she was looking forward to some upcoming normalization of life.

February brought a brief email from **Faith Evans**, who had sold her house and moved into an assisted living facility (Residence at River Bend, 149 County Road, Apt. 101, Ipswich MA 01939) but retained her same phone number (978-356-2098). Faith wrote that she was not loving her new living quarters, which she described as a very small one-bedroom apartment, where it seemed hard to get doctors; and she could only visit them when transportation was provided, which she found difficult to coordinate. Also, the facility seems to have many ambulance calls weekly. Faith did note that, on a positive side, she has met some good people there. Her suggestion: don't go to an assisted-living facility unless you really need to. Faith keeps in touch with **Marcia Randlett Oder**, **Judy White Fogt**, and **Arlene Branca**.

Daphne Ostle shared a new (perhaps temporary) snail mail address (82 Westview Rd., Damariscotta, ME 04543) and email address (daphneostle@gmail.com)

Marcia Randlett Oder emailed to say that she had her two Pfizer shots so felt a bit

safer getting out, at least to shop for groceries. She also noted that during winters like the one we'd been experiencing, she was glad to be in Florida, away from snow and ice. Marcia wrote that she doesn't really have news to share of this past year. She lives in a retirement community that offers skilled nursing, assisted living, and independent living, which is where she is. As of mid-February 2021, life was beginning to open up, since all residents had their two vaccines, but for a year, they had all been limited in leaving the campus and in having visitors. Activities were limited to 10 participants; all meals were served in one's own apartment; and essential shopping was done by staff ("although there was more than one definition of 'essential.'"). Fortunately, the facility's outside grounds are attractive, and the pool and hot tub were open, so residents could get outside for walking, swimming, shuffleboard, etc. Marcia takes OLLI classes on Zoom and does volunteer work at the facility, so she has remained quite busy. She reported that the only family member who was able to do anything unusual last year is her grandson. A biking enthusiast for a long time, when he lost his job in late July, he hopped on his bike in San Francisco and arrived in NY City in early October. He's now writing a book about his fantastic solo trip.

Nancy Van Vleck Von Allmen shared that after getting their second vaccine on February 15th, she and husband Beat drove up to Snowbird to ski. "It's been snowing ever since, and we've now had 52 inches in the past 48 hours. What a year it's been for us all, everywhere in the world, eh?" Nancy said that she and Beat have stayed well, despite weight gain. In February, 2020, before Covid hit, she flew to Patagonia and boarded a Hybrid-Powered Norwegian ship for a two-week expedition to Antarctica. "This was the last item on My Bucket List, and it was the best trip of my lifetime. The highlight was hanging out with six varieties of penguins. They waddled right up to us and were so delightfully communicative." Nancy also got to see five varieties of seals and five varieties of whales and visited a Ukrainian Research Station, where they found that air temperatures have increased by 9 degrees Fahrenheit in the past 50 years, owing to climate change. During her return home, due to the fear of Covid, no country would let the travelers disembark. The group was stuck on board the ship for an extra 10 days until they reached the Falkland Islands, where they were finally able to disembark and fly north. Nancy reported that after 35 years as a travel consultant, she has finally retired. "Daughter Erica lives next door to us with her husband and two precious children, so we are fortunate to be one pod."

Marcie Lashnits Turner wrote from her home in Jacksonville, FL, "My life has not changed that much from the pandemic, just reduced quality or quantity from what I was doing before." A person who always enjoyed

reading, she now was meeting with her book clubs on Zoom instead of in person. "A volunteer job at the local art museum is pretty much on hold now, as is the non-party political club of which I am treasurer." Florida's Governor decided that state activities must now be held in person for at least a quorum, with the public able to attend on Zoom. Hence, the couple of committees that Marcie is on meet in larger rooms but with fewer people, all wearing masks. Instead of playing bridge at her local duplicate club, she now plays only with her "pod" of three longtime friends. Marcie sees a lot less of grandchildren but more of great-nieces on Zoom. While she knows people who have been using their extra time cleaning out or reorganizing their homes, she has had no interest in that. Her husband has been able to remain active by keeping up with his golf. Marcie is grateful that the pandemic has impacted her married life much less than that of many younger people who have jobs they cannot do and families with increased responsibility. "The only person I have kept up with since college is **Cyndy Bailes**. I am glad we were able to have a nice visit last fall, as she died this winter." Marcie ends her email wondering how everyone else has been doing.

Isabel "Gypsy" Kimball Richardson wrote a review of how "interesting, to say the least" 2020 was for her. During the first part of the year, she was involved with the Brevard Philharmonic in Brevard, NC, and with her church, where she is a member of the Worship Team and is on the board. Gypsy is also a member of the Living Wage Coalition of Transylvania County. The AAUW's annual book sale planned for June had to be canceled. The Brevard Music Center could neither put on their music programs nor student studies during the summer. They hope to resume at the Center during the summer of 2021. Gypsy has been pretty much staying at home during the height of the pandemic. Road Scholar, the organization she has traveled with, is now providing three- to five-day virtual trips, along with one hour lectures followed by Q & A sessions, keeping her busy and continually learning. Gypsy also enjoys listening to Great Courses lectures and catching up on reading books. She belongs to two book clubs that meet via Zoom.

In her Christmas card, **Judy White Fogt** wrote that she and her family had much to be grateful for. Daughter Lis and family were in Botswana, where there was not much COVID reported. Her boys were in school, but the family was unable to leave the country and travel, as all borders were closed to visitors. Judy was happy to be able to keep up with this segment of her family via Zoom. She was also able to continue her yoga, French conversation, and book club via Zoom (... "better than nothing"). In her end-of-February email, Judy wrote, "Well, we all won't forget 2020, will we? What a

year — between Covid-19, learning to keep in touch via Zoom instead of in person, and a tumultuous political landscape, PHEW!" She reported that one of the few people with whom she'd shared a meal during the past year was **Arlene Branca**, who is fine, has had both of her vaccinations, and happily reported that her son, Andrew, is getting married in the Bahamas next year. Judy next noted that her youngest daughter, Suzanne, and her family, who had lived in the nearby DC area since college, were moving to Bar Harbor, ME, where her husband, Bear, will be Administrative Dean at the College of the Atlantic. The fact that the family loves the outdoors and will be at the gateway to Acadia National Park makes up for the challenging change from big city to small town life. Judy will certainly miss her "adorable grandkids, ages 7 and 4", but plans to visit as often as she can. Judy closed by saying, "I do hope, my ole classmates, you and your families are keeping well and coping successfully with COVID uncertainties. Looking forward to seeing that silver lining in days ahead."

The past year for the **Hohlers** has not been unlike that described by our classmates. We haven't been able to physically visit with the Ohio Hohlers, my brother and his family in Michigan, or even with our Nikki and Jose in DC for over a year. We have lost relatives and friends to Covid-19, and we've spent too much of our lives house-bound (though Larry's cycling buddies did manage to ride throughout most of the winter and dined afterwards at their favorite luncheonette — but outdoors, in the freezing cold, sitting six feet apart, and wearing masks when not eating). Our various clubs, councils, societies, associations, and boards turned to Zoom for their meetings and activities. Yet, at a time when things seemed most bleak, and while the country was celebrating our governor and essential workers as our heroes, Larry and I learned that donors to charities like our Hope Children's Fund were also increasing in number. Thanks to their ongoing generosity, our Kenyan orphans in Meru continue to be well-fed, cared for, busy, and delighted to be back in school. Amazingly, we held our most successful Annual Kenya/USABi-Continental 5K Run/Walk *virtually* during seven days in November, after having had to postpone the usual one-day live event several times from the originally planned warmer months. Our annual February "Passion for Education Gala" has been rescheduled for mid-July. We have learned to make better use of snail and email, newsletters, Network for Good, our website (hopechildrensfund.org), and a GoFundMe page for our fundraising.

Larry and I and most of our friends have by now been vaccinated, but we're still counting the days 'til our lives can come closer to post-pandemic. (If you haven't yet received your vaccines, please do so!) We look forward to seeing you on Western's beautiful campus — perhaps next June? Meanwhile,

here's to a better, healthier year and future!
Cheers ...

Evie Small Hohler '64
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hohlerlj@aol.com



Penny Morgan Colman writes early in the pandemic they learned of the Covid-19 death of a very dear and young friend/colleague. "We were sadly prepared for the grim reality that would unfold over the year. In the midst of that, there have been positive events: one of my sons and his wife, the parents of two sets of twins, moved into a house around the corner from us. I have continued to accept speaking dates via Zoom, Face Time, Skype and platforms I have never heard of. These were about my book *The Vote: Women's Fierce Fight*. I donated my extensive photo archive of my 30-year quest in search of landmarks to women Penny Colman Collection—to Ramapo College of New Jersey that has a wonderful digital history initiative. If you are interested, my talks are on YouTube and my images on Instagram and my blog. All can be accessed through my website."

Edith Taylor Molumby writes that "we downsized from our house of 47 years and moved in early October, about six blocks away, to an independent living apartment in a continuing care facility. Since we had a more severe February than normal, we were most happy not to worry about frozen pipes and shoveling snow. We have been Skyping and Zooming with our children and grandchildren for the past year. Now that we have had both doses of the vaccine, we are hoping to see them this spring or summer. We have gone to church on Zoom since March 2020 as well. The senior facility here is slowly opening up and we are meeting residents in the dining room. I hopefully will join many of you at our 55th Zoom reunion in June."

Kay Levy Harris writes that in addition to Covid, Marty has had more challenges. "We are navigating them with a personal trainer and physical therapy. We are both vaccinated and starting to see our grandchildren safely. Loving that spring is here and gardening cannot be far around the corner. I work two raised beds with tomatoes and flowers that I share with friends and neighbors. Last summer that was a godsend. I am enjoying drawing, coloring, and photography and all the resources that the Twin Cities offer. Our daughters and families are doing well. Four grands are between 11 and 15. The older two are starting to drive. Our current ad-

dress is 12800 Marion Lane West, Apt 416, Minnesota, MN 55305. Stay well and safe.

Hazel Williams Drew writes 2020 has been a tough emotional year for her. Amidst the grief of losing quite a few friends and acquaintances to the virus, there has been a joy in finally welcoming her grandson. Covid squashed her plans to spend four months in Switzerland where her daughter and husband live. The baby was two months premature but this April he will be a healthy 1-year-old. She is looking forward to holding him one day, "but weekly FaceTime progress reports are working well. Meanwhile, line dancing with other seniors in a local park keeps me sane. Exercise and lots of laughter is great medicine. Zoom meetings and video church services make me thankful for modern technology. Got both vaccines but still very cautious. Involvement with the WCAA board keeps my brain active. I really hope everyone attends this year's Zoom reunion. No traveling is involved. You just need to click on the Zoom link in the comfort of your home. So, let's have a big turnout for the class of 1966's 55th reunion. Be well everyone."

Ann Walton writes 2020 was full of Zoom meetings, picking up groceries at the curb and limiting interactions with family and friends. "For my family, we had the added sorrow of losing my only sibling, brother David, who died of Covid-19 complications in early January 2021. The pandemic has put my real estate business on hold but I look forward to a robust 2021 housing market. I continue to serve on the WCAA board and our Zoom meetings have produced a lot of good work toward 2024 and the closure of our Association. Can't believe our class is celebrating its 55th reunion this year. Although we won't be able to meet on campus, I am looking forward to our class Zoom gathering during the annual reunion weekend. Hope as many of you as possible will join in.

Nancy Fryer Fishkin writes, "Not much has changed in my life. I have been a widow for over 20 years, have moved to a condo in Fairfield, CT, and spend the winter in Florida (east coast) in my house which is four doors down from my sister's. I feel very fortunate to have this 'mild winters' experience and still live in Connecticut. During Covid last year, my sister and I spent lots of fun time in Florida doing various projects and enjoying each other. I also kept up with my CT book club on Zoom. My youngest son and his wife have two children and live in California. It is beyond great to be a grandmother (I'm known as Grancy). My oldest son still lives in Connecticut. All the best to my fellow '66ers and hope to see you on Zoom!!"

Cynthia Crossan writes that they have survived the pandemic fairly well despite a few setbacks. "My biggest disappointment is that I was unable to publicize my latest

book. The book, *You Cannot Cage the Wolf: A Mother Struggles with the Suicide of her Soldier Son*, is a memoir about how my son's death, after returning from the military with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), led me to design the first program in the country to place specially trained service dogs with veterans with PTSD. The book has been wonderfully received but it came out in November of 2019 and the pandemic in March canceled any further speaking and book signing events. My website (www.cynthiacrossan.com) continues to create interest, and I hope to do more speaking when we are finally out and about again. In the meantime, I consult with service dog programs across the country and am involved in helping Assistance Dogs International to create and advise standards for placement of service dogs for PTSD and other psychiatric diagnoses. We lost my beloved Assistance dog, Dandi, in the late summer of 2020 and it was tough for a bit. I finally decided that I would have another pup trained for service and we got Gabriel in late November. He is a Shih Tzu — like Dandi — and has brought much joy to our lives. I highly recommend the love of a pup in tough times. As a writer of college texts, I find that the pandemic had a significant negative influence on sales for those as well. But there are always new ideas, so hopefully there will be new books for me on the horizon. My church continues to thrive through all of this. We spent much of the year worshipping on Zoom, but are back in church again. It feels great to be back in the pulpit! I look forward to a year ahead of new joys that will offset the challenges."

From **Suzanne Lutz May**: "Thank Heavens for Facetime, photos, and videos. If they didn't exist I would never see my 4-year-old grandson, Miller James May, as he evolves. He is, of course, cute, smart, and big for his age. Christopher is a great father and they have a great relationship. They all enjoy being outside. However, at Miller's age he's not allowed off the elevated porch by himself because of some of the wildlife in the area — Evergreen, CO, just west of Denver in the foothills of the Rockies. I feel privileged to return to the WCAA Board during this busy transition and appreciate their interest in the process."

Rich and I, Kathi, have been in semi-isolation on our ranch for over one year. We have gotten our vaccines and are still wearing masks when we are doing errands. We hope to be returning to church in May. I have enjoyed Zooming services on our two former churches Richfield UCC (Ohio) and Foothills UCC (California) as well as our All Peoples UCC (Central Oregon) and Prineville Presbyterian (Prineville). I spread them out over the first part of the week. Zoom meetings, trainings and a couple of book clubs have kept me sane during this year. Being on the ranch and taking care of the critters has kept us moving and being

outdoors every day. We are looking forward to seeing our children, grands and great-grands. We currently have four great-grands and are expecting two more this summer as well as the wedding of our youngest grandson this fall in Portland. Rich turns 90 this summer so we are hoping to have a hybrid party with some guests and Zoom for family and friends that aren't able to travel. I hope you all will join us for the 55th reunion on Zoom in June ...

Kathi Bumblis '68
2230 NW Gerke Rd.
Prineville, OR 97754
bumbli@comcast.net



The year 2020 brought many changes to all of us, changes which continue. I hope, however, that when you read this, we will be approaching "herd immunity" and will be close to returning to our former "normal" lives. In 2020 we had our first Zoom reunion, which was quite successful, I thought, considering the technical challenges. One of the advantages was that it allowed people to attend who might not have been able to travel to Oxford. The year was rather uneventful for the Blake clan. We had our last trip right before we were all locked down: a trip to Colorado in early March with Joel and my sister, **Gretchen Blake Roy '71**, to visit our aunt for her 97th birthday. Gretchen came back to Berkeley with us for a visit, but had to leave early to be sure she'd be able to get home to Maine. Since then it's been all Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp, etc.! My work on the WCAA Board has been very rewarding, as we plan for our dissolution in 2024. Please plan to return to Oxford for that last Reunion, as well as any before that as you can. Each will have a theme, and the 2024 Reunion will be a big bash, as you can imagine! This year's, June 11 and 12, which will also be virtual, will have an international theme. Right now (March), having been fully vaccinated, I'm looking forward to going out with family and friends.

Marjorie Custer Bowles reported that the Custer/Bowles family have managed to avoid Covid and are slowly able to receive vaccines. Margie has increased her technological skills in able to coordinate her book group and library work. The work that Margie is doing in Elkhorn Slough with otter monitoring has been able to continue, and there again, the need to handle all reporting by using various apps rather than paper documents. They have enjoyed going to church on Facebook and participating in other events remotely. Daily walks on the beach have been a marvelous way to get out of the house! The garden has never looked better



Presenting Cassia, daughter of Daphne and granddaughter of Susan Hackley '68

since it gets so much attention. Margie has picked up her paint brush again and created portraits of her grandchildren and the family pets! The family is looking forward to traveling this summer to Greece.

Kathy Evans Findley and Jim celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary before everything changed in 2020. In March they had a catered dinner for Jim's 75th birthday, and that was the last time they socialized with friends and family. Lots of house projects, sleeping in, and Kathy finally read the "Outlander" series. Eventually, doctor/dentist appointments were high points requiring real clothes. Kathy had cataract surgeries in July, with Covid-19 tests before each. The August cruise to the Arctic Circle was rescheduled to 2021, and that may be optimistic. Another wedding anniversary passed. Zoom PEO and Rotary meetings, church services and committee meetings, and seeing the children and grandchildren on screen were better than nothing. Fortunately, Kathy and Jim have received their vaccinations, and eagerly await seeing people for real, dining out, and traveling.

Jennifer French Sponsler wrote that 2020 was certainly a year of changes — some good and some bad. In many ways she believes it also was a year of contemplation and growth for many of us as we slowed down a bit, enjoyed ordinary things more and discovered previously hidden talents. In her case, it meant becoming much more computer savvy as Zoom has become the primary (and often the only) means of regularly connecting with family and friends in addition to reading many of the books that she never seemed to have time to enjoy before. She looks forward to resuming in-person visits with family and friends as well as completing her travel bucket list beginning with a sailing trip to Portugal as soon as it is safe. Like many, she eagerly anticipates the time when masks will no longer be necessary.

Hayat Imam gave a talk on March 5, 2021, for International Women's Day, at Massachusetts Peace Action, entitled "All Women Are Wonder Women." She concluded her speech with: "I am humbled and heartened,

not just by the work of women, but also by the values that women bring to that work: respect for the environment, respect for each other, love for children and the vulnerable, an intense work ethic, the ability to work in partnership, and the foresight and willingness to do the work Today, that will safeguard the children of Tomorrow. All Women are indeed Wonder Women."

Brenda Lee Bell finds herself grateful for so much in spite of the disruption of 2020 and beyond. She is thankful for these highlights: Before the pandemic shut-down, **Karen Prah Voris** and her husband, John, visited the Bells in Florida. It was a wonderful chance to catch up and plan new ways to keep in touch. What a blessing Zoom turned out to be. In addition to family birthday parties and discussion groups, Brenda organized a Friday Night Trivia group that met virtually for two months, something to look forward to when friends could not be together. Being mostly at home allowed time to sort through family photos and artifacts, nine pounds of which were shipped to Brenda's brother, who is the family historian. His interest in genealogy and time to explore unearthed a second cousin in a distant state with whom Brenda has been corresponding. It's been so much fun to explore life's parallels and share family lore and photos. There have been more adventures to navigate including enduring a 14-day quarantine, cataract surgery, and getting appointments for virus inoculations, all of which have required ingenuity and patience but have proved to be rewarding. Brenda hopes her classmates have found their own bright moments in a difficult year.

Miho Matsuda Abedini has been with her family in Toronto due to COVID for more than a year. They had to give up many trips, and conducted meetings online, even medical matters, but they are luckily fine. She is hoping that they will be able to fly again, after being vaccinated — soon!

Cece Peabody, after re-joining the WCAA Board of Trustees last fall (Cece was also on the board 1994-1996), met and reunited with alumnae from all over the world. Meeting in person was a blast from the past, and seeing two from her class (**Susan Blake**, from the same town, Ridgewood, NJ) and her roommate, **Barbara Williamson Wentz**), Cece confirmed again why she wanted to be part of this board. Western holds a very dear place in her memories for what she learned (majored in English), how many worldwide friends she made, and how a small Mid-western college changed her life. COVID absolutely changed life for everyone, but we did get through the year and continued to learn new things about coping — multiple Zoom meetings, video conferencing, cleaning out our "extras," and our love for family and friends. Cece continues to be the executive director of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, which also pivoted to virtual connections. Her son, Patrick Yannarelli, is

entering his eighth year as the head coach of men's Lacrosse at Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH, about a four hour drive from Oxford. Although she hasn't seen him in person since last July, those video calls help with the distance. Cece hopes that all '68 classmates will join the virtual reunion June 11-12th and share their lives, loves, and more. Until we 'see' each other, stay safe, stay healthy, and try to have as much fun as possible!"

Patty Robins Lacey finished two major archaeological reports for Montana and Colorado. While "excavating" her garage she found hands-on replicas, made by her late husband Lee Lacey, and donated them to Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. She watched too many cooking shows and now knows about the magic flavor of butter. The work and research for the Cortez Historic Preservation Board continued with 20 buildings eligible for listing on their historic register. Her pandemic story in March 2020 was that she almost got stuck in Guatemala on an archaeology tour ... but made it out to Mexico and home only three hours before the border was closed. A true Western College adventure.

Mame Russell completed construction on a rental unit in the back of her property in Montrose, up against the hills above LA near Pasadena, in spite of adhering to pretty tough boundaries, necessary given Los Angeles' high C-19 numbers. Finding suitable renters is a momentary challenge, so for now it's awaiting going AirBNB later in the spring. There have been miracle moments this year: three sets of neighbors brought over



Mame's rescue "Charley"

Thanksgiving dinner to ensure she did not miss out! Following the passing of her first adoptive Husky, Bella, early in the spring after only 12 months together, Mame rescued Charley, a 5 year- old Siberian Husky. (See photo!) Walking him several times a day is good physical exercise. (Cycling has been on hold until after vaccines.) Docenting at The Autry Museum of the American West, with its Zoom graduate-level seminars and so much more, tickles the little grey cells. Lastly, prayer, keeping virtually close to family/church/ friends, and a strong conviction that we will come out better for this, loving each other more and appreciating simply being together physically again, are getting her through the inevitable growing older,

loneliness and anxious moments this year has presented.

Barbara Williamson Wentz wrote that this has been a year that has forced her to join the technology world. She has gotten better with a lot of help from Debbie in the Western office. She has done several cleaning out projects which were long overdue. Just before the world closed down, their children gave a surprise celebration-of-life party for Erv last February (2020). It was a grand success and a lot of fun to have the whole family together as well as many local friends. Dealing with Erv's health issues including degeneration of his back and congestive heart failure have made life challenging, but they are constantly adjusting. They now have two great-granddaughters, but since they are in Minnesota they only have Zoom and the family album on Barbara's phone. She hopes to see us all at the reunion; Zoom works well as long as we don't all talk at once! ...

Susan Blake '68
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Berkeley, CA94705
ssblake68@gmail.com



With regret, there are no notes for the Class of 1970 this year. Hope to see you in 2022!

Kelly Felice '70
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Clinton, Whidbey Island, WA 98236
noaprof@aol.com



We are fine. I did some emailing to classmates but got nothing back. :(

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



It is with sincere regret that I must report to you that two of our classmates have passed away since the last time I wrote this column. **Lee Esterly Richter** passed away

in March 2020, and **Jeanne Marie Russo** passed away in July 2020. We send our condolences to their families. Getting on to happier news:

Sue Anderson says, "2020 was a different year for everyone! I only traveled to doctor appointments and the grocery stores." Sue did visit her sister-in-law and her family (who live about 45 minutes away) once last summer. Sue is still involved with her church, her local United Way, and various historical societies — all on Zoom. She is also involved in a Zoom meeting with her cousins once a month, so they keep in touch that way. Sue is still hoping to have her annual Memorial Day picnic, but she says, "... time will tell if we can or not. Depends on what New Jersey Governor Murphy says." Sue lives in Succasunna, NJ. She hopes everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Ann Crowley Pagano and her husband, Lou, have been happy and well this past year. They live in Indianapolis but have spent six to seven months for the past nine winters on Anna Maria Island in Florida. The Paganos have three sons. Two of them are in the U.S. Air Force and are currently deployed at different bases in Africa. The other son works in Chicago. Their oldest son was married in 2018, and he and his wife have a daughter, Sophia Lee Pagano, who will be 2 years old in August of this year. Ann is thrilled to be a grandmother.

Sue De Witt Mooney sends her greetings to everyone. Sue retired in September 2020 as a Montessori teacher for 3- to 6-year-olds. She says, "Transitioning to retirement has felt like a new kind of adolescence." She has been taking online art and yoga classes. Before the November 2020 election she wrote 900 "get out the vote" postcards. She has had Zoom meetings with our classmates **Nancy Anderson** and **Jill Rawnsley**. She also had a phone call with **Anthoula Demopoulou Toufas**, in which Anthoula told Sue all about her granddaughter. Sue, Jeff, and Tigger (their cat) have been living peacefully and safely together during the pandemic. Sue especially wants to congratulate **Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins** for receiving the Freedom Summer of '64 Award and also said that she is very proud of Western College's past involvement with Freedom Summer.

Nevine Gulamhusein currently lives in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She has been doing online volunteering as a data analytics lead during the COVID-19 lockdown. Nevine is considering purchasing a vacation home in Portugal, which she can visit after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

Linda Hayes Holliday retired in January 2021 after a long career in education that included teaching and also serving as an assistant superintendent for Human Resources. She has also acted as an education



*Ann Crowley Pagano '74
and her family, Christmas 2019*

consultant doing coaching and mentoring for new (female) central office administrators. Linda's husband is News Director for the NBC station in St. Louis, MO, and their daughter is a teacher.

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins has been selected to be the 2021 commencement speaker at Miami University (Oxford, OH). She is a past national president of the League of Women Voters where she served two terms and was the first woman of color to hold the position. Carolyn has been involved for many years in civil rights activism and social justice causes. She is the author of the book *The Road to Black Suffrage and One Man, One Vote: The History of the African-American Vote in the United States*. Last year, she also wrote a new book: *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*. Carolyn is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mary Miller Croxton is keeping busy with the League of Women Voters organization and with the Literary Club to which she

belongs. Two of her three grandchildren live locally, and she has been helping them with Zoom distance education three days a week while their parents are working. Mary is retired but has been helping with vaccinations in her local community. She was proud that **Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins** would be speaking via Zoom to the Chautauqua, NY, League of Women Voters online meeting in April 2021. Carolyn will be talking about her new book.

I, Betsy, have mostly been staying home during the pandemic. I haven't been out to dinner at a restaurant since March 2020, although I get carry-out sometimes. I've

been keeping busy with Zoom meetings for some of my volunteer organizations, and I also have cousin Zoom get-togethers with both the cousins on my mother's side of the family and those on my father's side. My friends and I keep in touch by Zoom, email, or telephone calls. My 50th high school reunion, scheduled for July 2020, was canceled. Now my high school class is hoping to have a 70th birthday celebration instead in 2022. I haven't traveled since November 2019, when I took a week-long Caribbean cruise. I'm getting eager to travel again.

Best wishes to all of the members of the Western College Class of 1974. It will only be three years until our 50th college reunion in June 2024. I hope many of you can make the trip to Oxford then. Start planning for it now ...

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



Hey, Class of 1976: I send you greetings from one of your fellow Western College classmates that was able to attend Western for only two years. Yes, we were one of the "Unfinished" classes but we had some great times!

Do you remember the peonies? Stone bridges around the campus? Dean Hoyt library? I sure do and they are still around, I mean the peonies and the beautiful stone bridges, of course.

Over the years, I have been quite active with coming back to Oxford for the Western College Reunion weekends in June and serving on the WCAA, Inc for about eight years. It has been enjoyable and enlightening to learn so much about Western College's history.

Well, the WCAA will be shutting down in a couple of years after being in operation for **50 years!!** There is a Legacy Circle with Western's history, name plates of past students/trustees/professors beautifully displayed near Peabody Hall. **Yes, Peabody Hall is still standing and the peonies are still blooming!! The stone bridges are still beautiful as ever.**

I am sending out a **SHOUT OUT** for you all to return to Western thru virtual reunion this upcoming **June 11-12, 2021**.

Hopefully, in 2022 we can be in person in June for Western Reunion and acknowledge our **Class of 1976!!**

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



In Memoriam

Anna Shrock Waite '38

February 2021

Elizabeth Holt Bancala '43

Date unknown

Mary Moffat Finkbeiner '43

Trustee 1995-2001

January 2021

Mildred Walker Elberfeld '45

December 2020

Hilda Beer Grauman '45

June 2019

Betty Ann Martin Gardner '46

August 2019

Helen Gons Korngold '46

February 2021

Dene Stern Mayer '47

January 31 2021

Mary Anne Hillman Thornton '48

February 2018

Janet Klingstedt Cassler '49

March 2021

Dorothy Riggin Johnson '49

July 2020

Lois Elane Haager Guise '50

May 2021

Martha Reese Miller '50

October 2019

E. (Elizabeth) Walker Hartigan '51

May 2020

Anne Harlan Ross '51

August 2019

Ann Anthony Brophy '52

November 2019

Julia Whitehead Olson '53

February 2014

Peggy Reichelderfer Morrison '54

November 2020

Ellen Tabah Goodstein '56

April 2013

Jean DeMartine Dreisbach '57

January 2021

Suann Luessow Handschy '57

August 2020

Claudette Rose Lupton '57

August 2020

Anne Walthart McMains '58

January 2021

Susanne Williams Keefer '60

June 2018

Gail Howell Litwiler '61

December 2019

Shirley Kretschman Purple '61

August 2015

Jeanne Phillips Rannells '64

March 2021

Patricia Scott '64

January 2021

*Correction: **Jeanne Marie Russo '74**, deceased July 2020, was incorrectly listed in the Fall/Winter 2020 "In Memoriam" as Janet Marie Russo. We sincerely regret the error. Our thanks to '74 Class Representative Betsy Salt for calling it to our attention.*

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

WESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION, INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

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 programs to keep the spirit of Western alive such as named scholarships, professorships, seminars, legacy projects, and campus preservation funds

During the year January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020

Club Designations

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

1942

Century Club

Beatrice Low Notley

1944

Peabody Society

Elinor G. de Hoog *

1947

Century Club

Joanna Harmeyer Ach

Donor

Anne Mack Dean
Louise Gutman Goldberg
Alyce Baumgartner Haines

1948

Donor

Cynthia Adams Leslie

1949

Peabody Society

Mary Jane Liggett Matson

Century Club

Evelyn Jensen Hill
Margo Freudenthal Kaufman

Donor

Betty Huttenbauer Heldman

1950

Clawson Club

Jane Lloyd Cantoni

Century Club

Patricia Brewer Benjamin

Donor

Sally Patterson Day
Donna Hall Mader
Louise Moore Murray

1951

McKee Circle

Ruth Dunlap Will *

Century Club

Jeanne Owen Buhler
Marilyn Johnson Ross

Donor

Josselyn Bennett Winslow

1952

Peabody Society

Jean Fuller Lester

McKee Circle

Catherine Ross Loveland

Century Club

Donna Schulz Bloom
Elizabeth Sipe Gerber
Nancy Ryan Rietz

Donor

Barbara Peterson Block

1953

Clawson Club

Debra Cohen Kalodner

Century Club

Mary Culver Daniels
Barbara Johnson
Mecklenborg
Barbara Johnson Wright

1954

Peabody Society

Miriam Chesslin *

McKee Circle

Sandra Franz Barnes
Elizabeth Renton Hale

Century Club

Cornelia Roettcher Levine
Lucy Ann Liggett
Maria Van Waveren Smit

1955

McKee Circle

Charlotte M. Kraebel
Phyllis Banta Sandmann

Century Club

Charlene Ashing Barry
Margaret Stackhouse
Flickinger
Jane Hazelton Gauss
Barbara Giles Grant
Dorothy Runyon Medlin
Mary Sicer Moore

Donor

Sally Miller Ihne

1956

Clawson Club

Carol Silvernail Swager

Century Club

Mihrican Ozdemir Havens
Carol Tincher Keith
Joyce Roark Phillips
Charlotte Leary Ross

Donor

Josephine Haines
Huntsinger

1957

McKee Circle

Diana Haynes O'Keefe
Charlotte Klein Varzi

Clawson Club

Ellyn Talbott Bogan
Shirley Rakich Giffin
Joan Mueller Mcnally

Century Club

Paula Zearley Armstrong
Ann Ellison
Susan Mayer Falter
Mary Staley Rader

1958

McKee Circle

Mary Smith Venable

Century Club

Donna Carpenter Cornman
Marie Uveges Holt

Donor

Jennie Fredley Klim

1959

McKee Circle

Ann Ferguson Zeigler

Century Club

Barbara Konheim Kolb
Diana Koch Mascali

Donor

Dorothy Ashley Gordon
 Peggy Mayer Hill
 Sue Forester Kincade

1960**Peabody Society**

Sara White Arn

Clawson Club

Catherine Bauer Cooper

Century Club

Sydney Stout Benson
 Patricia Alman Halbig
 Janet Sandrock MacEwen
 Susan Getz Morris

Donor

Nancy Kohlman Freeman
 Sally Allen Masters
 Christine Dempf Saari
 Joan Harrison Sievers

1961**Clawson Club**

Anne Adkins Weissenborn

Century Club

Sharry Patterson Addison
 Flora Zimmermann Cohen
 Marcia Jones Friddle
 Sharon Botsford Moyer
 Mary De Jong Obuchowski
 Marian J. Robinson

Donor

Sandra Baarsch
 Baumgardner Jeanette
 Kirkpatrick Duvall
 Ann Bronaugh Kyle
 Cecelia Ann Kendrick McCrillis
 Lynn Bernheim Reese

1962**Peabody Society**

Donna Shalala
 Doris Ning Wong

Donor

Judith Bauer

1963**Peabody Society**

Sally Scott Rogers

Clawson Club

Loretta W. Ryder

Century Club

Jill Hartley Fulton
 Carolyn M. Myers

Donor

Mary Ann Theophile Pappanikou
 Elizabeth Doerr Steponkus
 Emma Sue Nave Wilson

1964**Peabody Society**

Linda Roscoe Felicetti

McKee Circle

Nancy Fierbaugh Collier
 Marcia Randlett Oder
 Carol Thomas Ruikka

Clawson Club

Lynne Drucker Albukerk
 Alice I. Baker
 Yvette Small Hohler
 Isabel Kimball Richardson

Century Club

Janet Wood Beaven
 Carol Shuler Butcher
 Nancy Bergmann Killough
 Patricia Spokes Snowden
 Kathleen J. Turner
 Lois Johnson Wilson

1965**Peabody Society**

Katherine Egolf
 Janet Smith Dickerson Stephens

McKee Circle

Frances E. Hoffman
 Sylvia G. Stanfield

Century Club

Betsy Smith Ames
 Rita Gehlhoff
 Nancy Knight Godsil
 Elizabeth R. Jacobs-Harrison
 Barbara Wood Johnson
 Kathleen O'Brian Lillich
 Margaret Gaebler Morscheck
 Sue Brewer Thompson

Donor

Kathy Fansher Parnell

1966**Peabody Society**

Margaret Wilmer Bartlett

McKee Circle

Kathi Ramsey Goldsmith

Century Club

Hazel Williams Drew
 Edith Taylor Molumby
 Ann E. Walton
 Carol Maturro Ward

Donor

Charla A. Coatoam
 Betsy Fenn Spiess

1967**McKee Circle**

Joan A. Barenholtz

Century Club

Janina Chadwick
 Jane Gayley DuBois

Annie Wu Lee

Marlene Benjamin Tuttle
 Jo Ann Brombaugh
 Wittmann

Donor

Lois Dickey Coyle
 Carol Stone Lehman
 Jane F. Underwood

1968**Peabody Society**

Susan Blake
 Kathryn Evans Findley
 Cecelia M. Peabody
 Karen Prah Voris

McKee Circle

Jeanne Flowers Foster
 Ella Weingarten Iams
 Patricia A. Jayson

Clawson Club

Mary Russell
 Victoria Choy

Century Club

Susannah Davids
 Leslie Weirman Riley
 Ellen M. Myette
 Nancy Niver
 Jennifer French Sponsler
 Barbara Williamson Wentz

Donor

Patricia Robins Lacey
 Reynelda Ware

1969**Clawson Club**

Ann Noble

Century Club

Robin L. Bartlett
 B. J. Gibbons Bramlett
 Annette Bevan Gallagher
 Roberta Smith Hurley
 Betsy Philipson Kensinger
 Carolann Herrold Sharp

Donor

Linda Galantin
 Karen Kling Plumb
 Stevie Bentzen Snook

1970**Peabody Society**

Candice McDaniel Dalbey
 Mary Kelly Felice

McKee Circle

Jane Stoer Endres
 Linda Bartruff Hickey

Century Club

Lucy R. Boyle
 Mary Gibson Smith

Donor

Mary Hoge Miller
 Ellyn Trautmann Pflug
 Denee Dusenberry Stevenson

1971**McKee Circle**

Christine Jordan Blanchette
Century Club

Susan Wolfe Caceci
 Deborah J. McDuffie
 Susan Kudner Starr
 Pamela Waldron-Moore

Donor

Linda Brooks Larsen
 Nancy Stokes Saumsiegle

1972**Century Club**

Pamela J. Aduskevicz
 Deborah Caprini Ott

Donor

Polly Parke

1973**Clawson Club**

V Joan Campbell

Century Club

Rita E. Greene
 Gita Wijesinghe Pitter
 Ann M. Powell
 Jennifer Wilson

Donor

Elisabeth Cook Coady

1974**Peabody Society**

Nancy Anderson
 Elizabeth A. Salt

Century Club

Christine Moranda
 Greta Pope Wimp

Donor

Sue Anderson
 Cheryl P. Bonnell

1975**Century Club**

Mary B. Bartlett
 Mary Logan Foard

1976**Century Club**

Pheetta G. Wilkinson

Western Program Alumni**Century Club**

Madeline J. Iseli 1985
 Michael P. Loeffelman 2003

Elizabeth A. McNellie 1986
Catherine A. Ponitz 1982
Miranda R. Wilson 2004
Daniel T. Woltman 1991

Donor

Benjamin D. Gibbons 1994
Jacklyn C. Heikes 2017
Zackary D. Hill 2002
Lea T. Kirkwood 1992
Molly Meyers LaBadie 1999
Joy Usner 2003
Miranda R. Wilson 2004

Western Former Faculty/Staff

Donor

Carolyn Auble

Western Friend

Peabody Society

Edward J. Kenney
Linda Newman
Jeffrey Salt
Alan Shestack *

McKee Circle

Donna Matson
William R. Matson

Clawson Club

William T. Trainer

Century Club

Danelle and John Bernard
Susan Ragnar
Kathryn Tate
Robert Webber
Sten Wiedling

Donor

Peter L. Dean
Richelle R. Frabotta
Sarah E. Franklin
Margaret B. Gala
Lee D. Hieronymus
Katherine A. Kuvalanka

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Donor

Deborah S. Baker

Organizations

Columbus Foundation
Delta Air Lines Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
General Electric Company
Hieronymus Family Fund Inc.
Hohler Living Trust
Margaret and Marshall Bartlett Family Foundation Inc.
Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund
The Henry County Community Foundation Inc.
The Miami Foundation
Voris Family Foundation

Congratulations and Thank You to Our Donors!

Of our active Western College Alumnae, 13.03% contributed to the WCAA in 2020, compared to the national average in 2018-2019 of 8% for all colleges and universities. Your philanthropic support, volunteer efforts, meaningful experiences, and continued engagement speak volumes for a college no longer in existence!

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

Memorial Gifts

Louise Kell Ozdemir '21

Mihrican Ozdemir Havens '56

Harriet Gebhart Hieronymus '27

Hieronymus Family Fund Inc.

Lee Hieronymus

Lois Wiggins Newman '29

The Henry County Community Foundation Inc.

Linda Newman

Beth Shirk Bevan '45

In His Steps Foundation

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Alice Schacht Salt '47

Columbus Foundation

Elizabeth A. Salt '74

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Katherine Keiler Ragnar '49

Susan Ragnar

Barbara Frazey Kenney '57

Edward J. Kenney

Joan Mueller McNally '57

Dixie Harris Trainer '58

William T. Trainer

Cynthia Bailes '64

Yvette Small Hohler '64

Vivien Despotopulos Forbes '64

Yvette Small Hohler '64

Marcia Randlett Oder '64

Patricia Scott '64

Yvette Small Hohler '64

Gwendolyn Dixon West '64

Yvette Small Hohler '64

Elizabeth "Cindy" Flender Webber '62

Robert Webber

Donavon Auble, Former Faculty

Dorothy Ashley Gordon '59

Ella Weingarten Iams '68

Eleanore Vail, Former Faculty

Ella Weingarten Iams '68

Annie Wu Lee '67

Anthony M. and Ana Scafidi

Edward J. Kenney

Alumnae Weekend Gifts

Anniversary year classes contributed \$2,707.

Non-anniversary year classes contributed \$7,602.

TOTAL ALUMNAE WEEKEND GIFTS: \$10,309.

2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients

WCAA ALUMNAE SCHOLARSHIPS

Alyssa Marie Bachman
Bailey Cook
Kennedy Jo Hughes
Alyssa Thrasher

PEABODY SCHOLARSHIPS

Fritzi Mueller Beckett Scholarship

Ian Faehse

Marian F. Hawk Scholarship

Effe Addae
Solange Anyenno
Carol Combs
Arinzechukwu Mbadike

Malcolm D. Hill Scholarship

Jessica Zimmerman

Phyllis Hoyt Scholarship

Ian Faehse
Maribel Gonzaga
Jeffery Jones
Myrissa Kelly
Alicia Lenn
Jenna Lopez
Phil Storage

Barbara Frazey Kenney Scholarship

Giftly Baffour Gyau
Mireille Fough Mbindi
Arinzechukwu Mbadike
Monica Piedad
Phil Storage
Jessica Zimmerman

Mary West Liggett Scholarship

Jennis Scott
Veranique Sutton

E. Ramona Newton Manners Scholarship

Lovepreet Ahluwalia

Susanna Rieley McIntyre Scholarship

Nichole Begley

Helen Kaslo Osgood Scholarship

Solange Anyenno
Ian Faehse

Rowena Snyder Scholarship

Lovepreet Ahluwalia
Rebecca Bell
Ian Faehse
Alicia Lenn
Jenna Lopez
Kayla Miller
Suzanne Moundjongui Nessack
Jessica Zimmerman

General Peabody Scholarship

Effe Addae
Solange Anyenno
Nichole Begley
Carol Combs
Mireille Fough Mbindi
Maribel Gonzaga
Veronica Grilliot
Jeffery Jones
Myrissa Kelly
Alicia Lenn
Monica Piedad
Jessica Zimmerman

MULTI-CULTURAL INTERNATIONAL

Grace Chu Scholarship

Mathias Adjei
Nishan Amgain

Herrick Black Young International Scholarship

Mathias Adjei
Nabin Bastola

WCAA International Student Scholarship

Nishan Amgain

Multicultural Scholarship: International

Mathias Adjei
Nabin Bastola

MULTICULTURAL U.S. RESIDENT

Multicultural Scholarship: U.S. Resident

Ronald McKenzie
Ann Pannapara
Worley Stidham
R/L/V Scholarship
Kevin Kong
Elijah Weaver

STUDY ABROAD

Jean Boyd Cable Scholarship

Katherine Johnston
Megan Smith

Joseph Thoms and Sarah Darnall Resor Scholarship

Brittney Graves

Grace Osgood Scholarship

Tiffany Robinson
Sinait Sarfino

Alice Schacht Salt International Study Scholarship

Meagan Holloway-Ragland
Tiffany Robinson
Sinait Sarfino

Rowena Snyder Scholarship

Sinait Sarfino

Edith H. Von Tacky Scholarship

Anna Moellenbeck
Sinait Sarfino
Leanne Thomas

Lydia Zimmerman Scholarship

Renee Smetstad

WCAA International Exchange Scholarship

Meagan Holloway-Ragland
Sinait Sarfino

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS/ AWARDS

Clara Appel Scholarship

Adriana DeLoach
Anastasia Dorenbusch
Zoe Douglas

Alma G. Bremer Scholarship

Rene Pugh Raymond
Mary Madelyn Riordan
Jack Stratton Walter

Margaret Wilmer Bartlett Scholarship

Jack Bernacki
Maximillian Micheli
Alora Penner

Evelyn May Davis Scholarship

Lindsay Tammaro

Jane Smucker Fryman Western College Scholarship

Caroline Glenda Riley
Hieronymus Family Scholarship
Maxwell Kemper

Lucy Liggett

Bailey Lepley
Abigail Davis
Madeline Kalinowski

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Poplis Memorial Scholarship

James Lukenda

Edgar and Patricia Snowden Scholarship

Austin J Hampton

Elizabeth S. Turner Fund

Ryan Huston Brown
Trinity Charlton,
Kortney Geiger
Maura Elizabeth Goins
Mackenzie Jean Huber
Alexandra M Kadrass
Aria H Kupka

Andrew Joseph Nguyen
Maxwell Joshua Rattner
Madison Joyce Reger
Renee Elizabeth Smestad
Alexander Naupana Vankham
Lois McCullough Whitter WCAA Scholarship
Zackary Shaffer
Hailea Tucker

Susan Ray Woodworth Scholarship
Michelle Engel
WCAA Creative Arts Scholarship
Michael Ferguson
WCAA Memorial Scholarship
Erin Belcher
WCAA Trustee Scholarship
Halie White

Western College Scholarship
Daniel Craft
Adiana DeLoach
Sriya Kakarala



I am currently pursuing a double major in Art and Architecture History and Black World Studies with minors in Economics and Museum Studies. This scholarship has allowed me to imbue my college experience with a multidimensionality that allows me to explore the academic benefits of a variety of schools and areas of study. I am on the executive board of the Art Museum Student Organization that works with the university museum to cultivate interest and raise money for awareness and appreciation efforts. I also intern at the museum and am able to work closely with the curators and collection staff.

— Casey Bergman 2021



I want to thank you for awarding me a scholarship to support my goals. I am studying International Studies with a concentration in conflict, peace, and diplomacy in addition to Journalism. Both of my majors really enhance your writing and communication skills, so everything I learn is very much contributing to everything I want to do in the future. International studies is very interdisciplinary with concentrations in economics, history, geography, political science, and anthropology. I know that law school will be a lot different from my undergraduate studies, but I definitely feel prepared.

— Megan Holloway-Ragland 2022



Thank you so much for your generous scholarship. Without your generosity, I would not be able to attend the university that I love so much. My experience at Miami has been some of the most formative time in my life. My education has affected the way in which I view myself and the world around me. The ability to analyze and synthesize information has increased my confidence and empowered me to seek out new opportunities. I have built my confidence in public speaking and now look forward to standing in front of an audience. Miami has given me a great foundation, and I look forward to building upon it in the future.

— Emma Murabito 2021

Alumnae Scholarships Awarded to an outstanding incoming student enrolled in the College of Arts and Science or Fine Arts. Award covers one-half the cost of tuition and is based on merit, then financial need, and is 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.

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.

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.

Study Abroad Scholarships Awarded to undergraduate students enrolled in either a semester or full year study abroad program. One-time partial award.

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

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

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

Eighty-eight scholarships/awards totaling \$253,024 were distributed for 2020-2021 thanks to YOUR support!
To learn more about creating a named scholarship, please call WCAA Director Mackenzie Becker Rice at 513-529-4400.

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.



Jeanne Ott Saunders '40
Nancy A. Myers '46
Jane Alexander Durrell '47
Mary-Garnett Tillinghast '47
Grete Stern Wrede '51
Elizabeth Sipe Gerber '52
Catherine Ross Loveland '52
Gloria Wilson Sylvester '52
Mary Culver Daniels '53
Sandra Franz Barnes '54
Lucy Liggett '54
Maria Van Waveren Smit '54
Rosa Ewing Goldman '58
Caroline Kawallek Manildi '58
Ann Ferguson Zeigler '59
Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61
Susan Berryhill Hill '63
Joan Kowalski Jordan '63
Florence Firjanian McGurk '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
Susan Blake '68
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
Curtis W. Ellison HA
Burton Kaufman FF
Judy Kalbfus Waldron HA
David A. Rook and Svetlana Beros Rook 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 Mackenzie Becker Rice, WCAA Director. (513) 529-4400, e-mail: beckerml@miamioh.edu

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

Call For Nominations

ALUMNAE SERVICE AWARD

Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

The Board of Trustees invites nomination(s) of any alumna, alumnus, former faculty, or administrator who has brought credit to the traditions and spirit of Western by contributing significantly in one or more of these categories:

- Community and Humanitarian Service
- Professional or Career Accomplishment
- Service to Western College, Western College Program, or to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

The 2020 and 2021 awards will be presented at Alumnae/i Weekend 2021, June 11-13. Please fill out the following form and mail by September 30, 2021 to:

ALUMNAE SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

WCAA, INC.

For further information, call 513-529-4400 or E-mail: wcaa@miamioh.edu
To fax your nomination, 513-529-7400

I WISH TO NOMINATE:

Name(s) _____ Class of _____

(Please include all information as the selection will be based on this nomination form. Attach any additional pages, bios, clippings, letters, etc.)
Please mail no later than September 30, 2021.

• Community and Humanitarian Service

• Professional or Career Accomplishments

• Service to Western College, Western College Program, and/or to the Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.

Your Name _____ Class of _____

Telephone or Email _____

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

(please do not re-nominate)

*deceased
^posthumous award

2021 Elizabeth Salt '74
2020 Susan Blake '68
Nancy Wilson Kobayashi '69
2019 Peggy Cooper Davis '64
Jane Smucker Fryman '58*
Patricia Jayson '68
Suzanne Off Schrope '52*
2018 Donavon Auble, former faculty*
Esin Aka Atil '58^
Judith Dudman Henderson '62
Frances E. Hoffman '65
Mary Kaye Wolke HA
2017 Farida Abou Shady '69
Beth Merrill Dixon '86
2016 Jennie Lou Fredley Klim '58
Suzanne Lutz May '66
Rhian Miller '78
John Rego '81
2015 Vasso Papagregory Louvakis '57
Gretchen Wampler McDowell
Mousetis '58*
Shirin Kassam Velji '65
2014 Yvette Small Hohler '64
Katharine Piper '58*
Doris Ning Wong '62
2013 Lolita McDavid '69
Yoriko Konishi Meguro '61
Cary Kimbark Revere '53*
2012 Anne Adkins Weissenborn '61
2011 Judy K. Waldron HA
2008 Patrick Callahan '83
Kathleen Hayes Ransier '69
2007 Hélène Mambu-Ma Disu '72
Rachel DeLugish Hastings '94
2006 Deborah J. McDuffie '71
Ann B. Rosenfield '83
2005 Kyle W. Farley '83
Lucy A. Liggett '54
2003 Emily Wilson Greenland '47*
Catherine Ross Loveland '52
Sylvia G. Stanfield '65
2002 Deborah L. Moran '72
2001 Ruth Elzey Rawlings '31*
Josselyn Bennett Winslow '51
2000 Gay Belcher Hadley '52
1999 Dorothy Mershon Bajak '48*
Robin Lynn Bartlett '69
Jane Alexander Durrell '47
1998 Janet Smith Dickerson '65
Ann Niehaus Tobias '50*
1997 Phyllis Hoyt FF*
Eleanor Van Dervort Talbot '34*
1996 Mary Kinzie '66
1995 Catherine Bauer Cooper '60
Valerie Dickson-Horton '71
1994 Martha McKee Keehn '43*
Nancy Ewing Travis '40*
1993 Carman Wolff Hunter '43*
Margaret Gardner Markel '27*
1992 Donna E. Shalala '62
1991 Rosemary Ferguson Dybwad '31*
Helen Potts Felsenthal '56*
1990 Betty Maddox Daniels '46*
Nancy Boerner Larkin '48*
D. Ann Goldstone Marcus '43*
1989 Elizabeth Brown Peelle '54
1988 Alice Lanteman Hammond '28*
Frances Hall King '29*

The Western College Program

The WAAMU (WCP Alumni) News

Hello from a familiar face in a new place! I am writing as the board representative for the Western Alumni Association at Miami University. For those of you who don't know me, I am Audree Boggs. If you who do know me, you might know me better as Audree Riddle, 2010 graduate, Student Activities Coordinator at Western Program from 2010-2013, and Board member since . . . I am not sure when my time serving actually started. Why am I writing today? Because **Mike [Loeffelman '03]** has had an extended visit in the hospital after a transplant surgery — he is doing very well now in recovery — and in true community form, we filled in where he needed us most over these last few months.



Audree Boggs

As Mike spoke of in his last letter, we have focused much of our energy at this time on connecting with alumni. We have taken the lemons of virtual life and made lemonade as we have found that making connections and getting “together” has been much more accessible over the last year. When we are not trying to get everyone to a specific place but just in a specific virtual space we have found great success in reconnecting. We started trivia nights with alumni and have so enjoyed the time together. The first meeting we reminisced more than we actually played trivia. We have enjoyed learning about what shared experiences we have even though our times at Western span decades. These shared experiences connect us deeply, taking us back to places on Western that are special to us — places we long to get back to in person soon — that connect not only the alumni of WCP, but connect us to the Western College for Women Alumnae before us, and the Western Program Alumni after us.

Making and strengthening connections and our community has also allowed us the opportunity to evaluate our structure, involvement, and our legacy. We continue to build our alumni community by reaching out to individuals who desire to be involved in our community, events, and work. It is our hope that this will build a foundation for a stronger alumni community. We continue to keep those who stay in touch informed

about what is going on at Western. We created a series of e-newsletters that go to our alumni with information about the Alumni Association, Western Program, Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation, and anything notable. We have enjoyed learning about what the Western Program continues to do and share it with the alumni. Additionally, the Board has continued to be impressed by the hard work of the Western Center's acting director, **Dr. Jacqueline Daugherty**, faculty, staff, and students. Jacque is dedicated to Western ideals, supporting undergraduate student inquiry, and collaborating with alumni. We have enjoyed seeing the students work as they concluded the second year in their biennial theme of Water Access, which was made more accessible to alumni due to virtual formats. [See article, p. 24.]

The Board continues to work on several initiatives that further strengthen the Western alumni connections. These include an Awards Committee that will annually recognize the achievements of alumni, the strengthening of the relationship with the WCAA, supporting Friends of Western, supporting the needs of the current Individualized Studies program, and providing stronger support to the Class Representatives. The Board has stepped up to work on these projects during this challenging time and continues to make great progress. Their commitment to the greater Western alumni community is evident and much appreciated. While we will not be seeing each other back on Western again this summer, I hope we continue to find ways to connect with fellow Western alumni. It is these relationships and connections that will carry on the Western legacy.

I hope you support the Board's various projects and I encourage you to contact us with any questions at waamu@miamioh.edu.

— Audree (Riddle) Boggs '10
WAAMU Board Member



Deb Kocar lives in Brookline, MA, with husband Jerry Davidson. The pandemic has brought her family closer, with their two daughters and 19-month-old grandson, leaving NYC to hunker down with them in Massachusetts. With 40 years in undergrad admissions work at Boston U. and at Lesley U. as a director, Deb has been living out her commitment to higher education access, working with a wide variety of learners, from first gen's, to adults returning to college, to educators, therapists, and the "gloriously undecided students." She has been heartened to find her institutions valuing experiential, interdisciplinary learning! Lately, Deb's moved on from Lesley to launch her own consulting practice, dedicated to finding "right fit" colleges for clients. Reconnecting with her dear friend, classmate **Becky Kennard**, has been another upside to the pandemic!

Larry Blankemeyer '78
blanks0330@gmail.com



Jeff Lefkowitz reports that he is fine and still living on the air in Cincinnati.

Diane Wright reports that she continues her work at the Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (27 years), where she oversees Quality Management. She also



Diane Wright '86 and beau Howard, on the Buckeye Trail

continues to support couples and families as a celebrant for weddings and memorial services, and gets to teach classes in social work now and then. In 2020, she and her beau, Howard Ammons, moved in together three days before the shutdown, and in spite of the challenges of the past year, the time together has been a gift. Her son Nicholas is living outside Boulder, and her son

Tucker is studying forestry at the University of Montana. Howard and Diane decided to use pandemic weekends to begin the Buckeye Trail, and as of mid-March, they'd completed over 160 of the 1400 miles of the state's loop trail.

Amy Mohr reports that memories of her Western experience flooded over when she was contacted. Amy received her M.S. in counseling in '87 from Indiana State University, and a subsequent state license as a clinical social worker. While attending ISU, Amy sorely missed horses and found a friendly stable at St. Mary of the Woods College, just across the Wabash River from Terre Haute. She was then able to facilitate that college in competing in their first intercollegiate equestrian competition. She reports that they remain keen intercollegiate competitors with that sport to this day.

During that time, Amy was also one of the first students chosen, and the only female chosen, to do an internship at the Terre Haute Indiana Federal Penitentiary. She reports that it was an honor and quite an experience, and led to her job as the first in-school suspension counselor for her hometown high school in Shelbyville, IN. She later took a job at a substance abuse hospital in Indianapolis, and also worked PRN for an inpatient psychiatric hospital in nearby Greenwood, IN. In the background of Amy's life for all this time, she would take time out and help her family's construction and equipment company. Amy's involvement in the family business grew and her social work practice waned until she eventually took over the business after her father's death in 2014. She says that we should check it out on Facebook and give her a "like" at Mohr Crane Services.

Susan Kilbane reports that after 22 years working in the Chicago Public Schools as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal, she headed to the Pacific Northwest to join her parents and her sister **Karen Kilbane** and Karen's husband, **Pat Callahan ('83 Western graduates)**, and their family on Bainbridge Island in the state of Washington. Susan says that island life is wonderful. She enjoys jogging along the water and walking nearly in the water along the beach when the tide is low. Also fun is hanging with friends in the cafe and listening to live music regularly (pre-Corona), which were made possible because she cut her round trip commute from 90 to 6 minutes. This year is Susan's sixth year as the principal of St. Cecilia Catholic School serving Preschool through eighth graders. Art and writing are integrated across the curriculum. Susan's interdisciplinary lens from Western continues to be at the heart of her teaching and leading. Writing has become a real passion; you can check out Susan's weekly pieces at www.saintceciliaschool.org.

Sara Dale reports that she is in her 33rd year of teaching second- or third-graders. Sara says that her career has been a blessing and she has enjoyed every minute of it. The next portion of her life is starting this June. She and her husband are selling their home and belongings and heading out for adventures via a Class A RV that they purchased in November 2019 and spent the summer trying out. Sara and her husband traveled throughout nine states visiting family and friends, touring museums, taking extensive hikes and generally having a blast. Sara already has about eight months booked. She has always teased her family that Uncle Andy, her husband, is going to turn into "Cousin Eddie." If you want to follow Sara's travels she has promised to post periodically on her Instagram account, [sdale6060](https://www.instagram.com/sdale6060).

Ginny Beatty reports that she's staying active in Columbus, OH, working as a senior data analyst at OhioHealth. She's heavily involved with data analytics and reporting for Medicaid, Managed Medicaid, and Managed Care insurance billing. While Ginny is a few steps removed from being in front of a patient, she's feeling involved with patient care. She has maintained her sanity during the pandemic by traveling locally around Ohio to outdoor places that she's never had time to visit before. As facilities have opened up, Ginny has returned to the ballroom dance floor and the pool — aqua aerobics keep her active and happy. Ginny also completed Miami's online MiniMBA - a 12 session course that samples what could be possible with an M.B.A.

Laura Dobbins reports that she was living in New York City while the pandemic was raging on. She relates that the density of NYC's population provided a perfect Petri dish for COVID-19 to spread and do its damage. She says that it was grim, with intermittent moments of hope and community as they all hung out their windows and banged their pots and pans, saying "We are here, we are here, we are here" — all of them Hortons of Whoville for healthcare workers. Laura says that the outdoors became extra important — it was a safe place where she could see her loved ones, at least from six feet away.

She was grabbing one of those moments when she was kayaking on a lake in northern New Jersey, less than 50 miles away, when a moment of magic happened for her. She saw that an older couple was sitting on their dock, and Laura did the Ohio thing — as she thinks of it — and she started chatting with them, saying how she never knew how beautiful this area was. They told Laura that the house across the way was to be going up for sale. She kayaked over, where the owners were also on their deck, and offered her a tour.

One thing led to another, and next thing Laura knew, she was buying a lake house! And that's where she has spent most of the



Laura Dobbins' "little piece of magic"

rest of the pandemic. Laura very much looks forward to hosting friends at her little piece of magic soon.

I, Beth, report that I have learned that it is possible to work from my dining room, including doing remote hearings, depositions, mediations and new attorney interviews. But, while it's possible, I miss being around other people. Husband Jon and I did visit our son, Benjamin, who is now a hardware engineer in Seattle, and allowed me the opportunity to hug some Ponderosa pines and to try out a stand up paddleboard.

I was named to the Miami University Foundation Board this year, which allows me to make sure that Western stays front of mind at the University.

Finally: Several members of the Class of '86 have been getting together via Zoom about once a month. Many thanks to **John Mack** for setting that up. It's been fun to see and hear from so many of you on those sessions: **Jim Lopata, Laura Dobbins, Megan Rochford, Sherry Hofmann Loniewski, Suzanne Noble, Bill Cameron ('85), Amy Mohr, Diane Wright, John Haffner Layden** and **Beth McNellie**. If you'd like to join the conversation, please reach out to me and we'll add you to the invite!

Beth McNellie '86
emcnellie@bakerlaw.com



Well, the Class of 1990 has narrowly escaped having no updates at all this year, thanks to **Joan Wright**:

"I'm still working as a veterinarian in Oakland, CA, and spending most of my free time road bike riding, and hiking with my pug

puppy. But two years ago, I finally made it back to Plitvice, Croatia, one of the most beautiful places on Earth. I wanted to give a shout out to those Westerners who joined me on that original trip in 1988, just prior to the Iron Curtain coming down. For our more recent trip, we also stayed at a Bosnian horse ranch, galloped across the countryside, and spent time with survivors of their war. A most intense visit, and highly recommended. Here's to the future!"

And **Alicia Broderick**, the kids, and I are still here in Jersey, trying to get through lockdown with our sanity intact. I've managed to lose a few pounds now that all the groceries are bought online (no more impulse-buying cookies or chips), and my DVD collection has grown significantly. We've all got the travel bug, and I'm pleased to say that one of the places the kids are most eager to visit is Western Campus, which they tell me brings them peace — and they missed their annual trip last year when the WCAA Reunion Weekend went virtual. This close to NYC, however, the virus is taken pretty seriously, and we've lost both friends and family. So no travel until we've all had the jab.

Until next year, then! Meanwhile, get the shots, maintain distance and keep wearing the masks! Best ...

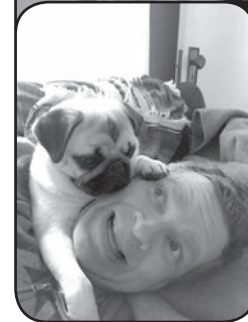
Mike Conaway '90
msconaway@hotmail.com



Hi Class of '94! We took an informal poll, and a majority of us decided to ride on the coattails of **Nicole Fleetwood's** accomplishments for this update. In case you haven't heard, Nicole's book, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* has been winning, like, every award ever. I mean, this is just from her Amazon page:

- A National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist
- A Smithsonian Book of the Year
A New York Review of Books Best of 2020
A New York Times Best Art Book of the Year
- An Art Newspaper Book of the Year

We are so proud of our classmate, and would like to brag that we all totally saw this coming.



Above: Joan Wright '90, in Croatia
Below: Clover the pug and Jason the husband

As for the rest of us, during quarantine we have embraced a new definition of "accomplishment." Here's what I got:

Colin Fogarty shaved, left the house, and had a nap.

Kurt Squire got a surf van. A SURF VAN. Also he has a book coming out. The Western library continues to grow.

Nika Sharp reports: "Today, I held office chair races with my classroom staff and got vaccinated. It was an eventful day. On a note of honesty, I haven't worn pants with a button or zipper for a year now."

We've decided **Scott Mongeau** is no longer '93. He's in our class now. Here's his update: "Oh yeah, I'm Dutch now! Isn't that crazy?! ... and I got one of those Ph.D. things (late bloomer) ... My pronouns are: Dr. Dutch / Dutchy / Dutchness ..."

Lisa Link Phillips reports: "Seeing all the accolades for **Nicole Fleetwood's** book was definitely one of the best parts of 2020! In 2020, I got a new job/promotion right before the pandemic started, which was exciting. Honestly, it was a great time to make a change. Other than that: made lots of bone broth, escaped to nature at every opportunity and played lots of games with Rod and Bee."

Rachel Hastings is, as always, doing amazing things. She says: "I renovated this

historic building: <https://www.arcoincincinnati.org/>, baked a lot of bread, and watched all of Netflix in 2020."

We have also decided **Shairstin Ransel Fierro** should technically be in our class. She shares: "If you must know, I'm currently exploring the science of the inner monologue. Just a side project. I'm vaccinated!" We're jealous.

Ben Gibbons: "In 2020, we adopted a cat. Greyjack has likely been the anchor for household sanity since February '20. With travel curtailed, I didn't see as many Western folk as I would in a typical year. However, I did have lunch with **Traci Forrester** the last Friday in January '20. My last overnight business trip of 2020 took me and the family to Oxford for Leap Day, time on Western and with the Western Mural at Lane Public Library, and a Miami RedHawks hockey game.

"Finally, **Scott Mongeau** was generous enough to send me a copy of his dissertation, which was greatly appreciated. I close by saying that the WCP Classes of 1993 and 1994 are my favorites in all of Western annals."

And as for me, **Johanna Smith**, I just hope everyone is able to make it through this crazy pandemic relatively unscathed. My kind-of-interesting news is I've received a dual appointment at my University between Theatre and Entrepreneurship (???) and have been doing Improv workshops with all sorts of interesting folks around the country. I like this move because I'm around a lot of people who think like Western majors!

If anyone would like to join the Class of '94 for future updates, we are a very welcoming bunch and would love to hear from you! Join us on Facebook if the platform doesn't destroy your soul (we might not last much longer). <http://www.professorjohanna.com>

Love, Johanna ..

Johanna Smith '94
johanner@gmail.com



From **Audree (Riddle) Boggs**: "Spending lots of time at home in Columbus (OH). Working part-time in real estate and managing three little ones at home — maybe they are managing me. Eleanor, our littlest, arrived in June 2020 — when we would have otherwise been at Alumni weekend. She wanted to make sure we still had an exciting weekend. Abigail and Lincoln, our twin 4-year-olds, have been keeping us busy with starting school. We have really enjoyed many virtual events such as trivia and wine tasting — the lemonade that comes with all these lemons."



Boggs family photo, fall 2020: Twin Abigail (left), Eleanor (center on Dad's lap), twin Lincoln (right), Dad Thad Boggs (MU '09) sitting, Mom Audree ('10, MU '14) standing.



Cayla '10 and Colin, chilling during Covid

From **Cayla**: "I've been chilling with Colin during the pandemic in North Carolina, still working on my dual master's in policy and business with Duke University. I'm completing my second year and heading into my third/final year. Online school isn't great so I'm excited to get back to in-person school next year.



Must share: Audree baking with her twin girls — wearing her Western sweatshirt!

In my spare time, I've been working at Self-Help Credit Union and as a teaching assistant at the Policy School and the Harvard Extension."

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





Western Center's Valuing Water Miniconference and Its First Two Years A Success

The Western Center marked the end of its first two years with a virtual miniconference in March on its inaugural biennial theme, Valuing Water: Ecological and Socio-cultural Perspectives. This coincided with the United Nations World Water Day celebration.

The event was the culmination of the Western Center's two-year exploration of the topic, which included:

- Courses on the Flint Michigan Water Crisis and global water governance
- Presentations by national and local speakers and collaboration with the Institute for Food's organic farm
- International visiting scholar Yama Chiodi, a filmmaker and anthropologist, who explored the complex and often disastrous relationship between humans and the natural world (Yama produced a podcast with the Western Center — see "Unfinished: Stories on the End of the World")
- Service learning projects focused on local wetland restoration.

Presenters at the miniconference shared their perspectives on practices and policies that promote a system of global water justice: indigeneity, creative collaborations, leadership by those most vulnerable, and ecosystem protection. You will find a complete conference program on the Western Center website, and recordings of presentations will be available soon.

The Myaamia Center opened the event with a beautiful presentation on Myaamionki, the Miami Indian homelands, with special attention to the role of water in tribal affairs, past and present, and in the narratives we craft about our identity. Panel presenters followed with topics ranging from strategies for stream corridor protection, to clean water act enforcement, and the critical role of collaborative agreements in negotiating water protection.

Our Keynote Speaker was Judith LeBlanc, Director of the Native Organizers Alliance. LeBlanc, who walks



The Center is located on the lower level of Peabody directly under Leonard Theatre. A dining hall in Seminary days, the space accommodated a nursery school in the '40s-'70s, and was dedicated as the Tappan Computing Center during the Campaign for Endowment in the '90s. The Tappan plaque is to the left of the door.

“with a high heel on one foot and a moccasin on the other,” shared her vision for a change in policy rooted in an indigenous framework. She called for us to reorient our water policy in such a way that guarantees that the health of the public and ecosystems are both priorities, and ... protects water and people. She said, “We are creating a model that is braiding science with spiritual and cultural values. Every one of us can be a water protector.” The miniconference ended on the following day at nearby Ruder Preserve, where enthusiastic participants were knee-deep in mud, doing critical wetland restoration work with the Three Valley Conservation Trust.

The miniconference punctuates the past two years of growth, from the conceptualization of the Western Center to its development as an invaluable resource on campus and beyond. Western Center programming was informed by an interdisciplinary faculty and staff advisory council with representatives from almost every division on campus with expertise in human-environmental interactions. **Billy Simms**, the center coordinator, worked with student employees (even throughout the pandemic) to maintain the physical space in Peabody and implement virtual and in-person programming (when safe). Programming included talks, panels, dialogues, and service projects that explored our water

access theme. Related Western Center events featured issues of sexual consent, the pathway to a degrowth economy, and the role of racism in voter suppression. Campus and community partnerships allowed us to offer experiential learning opportunities that served our mission of student engagement. Events included:

- Social Innovation Weekend on Food Security (2020) and Affordable Housing/Homelessness (2021), with the Miami University Institute for Entrepreneurship
- Art Exhibition on how we live with climate change, with the Oxford Community Arts Center and Project Dragonfly
- Willeke Lecture by Peggy Shepard, co-founder and director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice based in Harlem NYC (2020), with the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability
- Social Justice Internship Program during J-Term (2020 & 2021), with the Department of Sociology

and Gerontology and multiple nonprofits in Greater Cincinnati.

The success of the Western Center in its first two years has provided the opportunity to help reimagine the community engagement infrastructure of the university, as part of the boldly creative Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative. We are very excited about the future of this interdisciplinary endeavor and have been exploring concepts for the next biennial initiative and beyond. At the time of writing, we are developing plans for a social justice theme for 2021-2023 supported by a new undergraduate course, Reparations as Restorative Justice. More details are forthcoming.

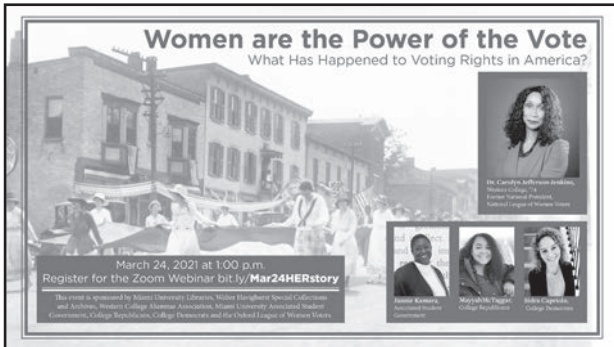
—*Jacqueline Daugherty, Director, Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation*

—*Nik Money, Director, Western Program for Individualized Studies*



As part of the Valuing Water Miniconference the Western Center partnered with Three Valley Conservation Trust to organize a service learning opportunity to restore the wetlands at Ruder Preserve on Four Mile Creek in Oxford. Twenty-three students and faculty members (and a couple of dogs) pitched-in to plant native species, remove invasives, and build trails.

Still Making Headlines: Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins'74



She was featured in the Miami Webinar advertised here (above). She was named keynote speaker for Miami University's May 15, 2021, in-person Commencement. Her second book, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, was published a year ago on the 100th anniversary of the League's founding; the illustrated edition is now available on Amazon.

If you missed the lead-up to these accomplishments, see the cover story in the Spring/Summer 2020 issue of your *WCAA Bulletin*.



Your Board of Trustees ... Not All Work

For, as the saying goes, no play would make them dull! The favorite part of every spring Board meeting is the Meet and Greet with our scholarship recipients. This year, of course, the get-together was virtual. No refreshments, but plenty of lively conversations.



Honorees Old and New: Cephas Burns, Rodney Coates, et al.

With apologies to former **WCAA Director Jacqui Wallace**, "We will not be erased!" As she so adamantly noted in the introduction to the first Time Present and Time Past Addendum, the stories of Western shall live on — partly because they are told on the bronze plaques throughout the campus. Now another one has been added on the bridge south



of the Western Dining Commons (originally connecting Mary Lyon and the Kelley Studio) to honor our own bridge builder, master stonemason **Cephas A. Burns**.

And last fall, as announced in **WCAA Board President Fran Hoffman's** *Bulletin* message, **Miami University President Greg Crawford** established the brand-new Spirit of Western College Award, recognizing "the advancement of education and human values at the local, national and international level in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It pays tribute to an enduring social justice legacy and honors those who are carrying it forward." The first recipients were MU professor **Rodney Coates**, Department of Global and Intercultural Studies; and the co-chairs of Miami's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) task force, **Anthony James** and **Vicka Bell-Robinson**.



Send your news — *and pictures!* — for the Fall '21 Bulletin NOW.

E-mail, or clip and mail the form below to your Class Rep. If your class does not have a Rep, send your update directly to the WCAA. Beat the deadline: Labor Day, September 6!

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