

S P R I N G 2 0 2 1

WCAA Inc.

Western College Alumnae Association Inc.
1974 – 2024 • 50 years of making history



Ready for the 2021 Virtual Reunion?

Wow! This is going to be exciting! This is the second time we've held the Alumnae/i Weekend via Zoom! We learned so much the last time, we saw alums we've never seen before, and everyone had a chance to tour the Western campus - just like (well okay, almost like) they were there in person.

Don your best Western attire (beanie, blue shirt or scarf, or class colors especially during the class sections) and

[click on link to see who plans to attend.](#)

Save the Dates!

Western
Alumnae/i
Weekend 2021
June 11-12, 2021

[REUNION
INFORMATION](#)

Visited our Facebook Page?
Have you ever visited the WCAA Facebook page? Reconnect with alums, see pictures from classmates when they were at Western, chat with Helen Peabody.

[WCAA Facebook Link](#)

How are you?

SEND YOUR NEWS TO

wcaa@miamioh.edu
<http://www.miamioh.edu/wcaa>

You don't want to miss:
Commencement Speaker:

May 15, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins '74

Jefferson-Jenkins, a 1974 Western College graduate, was elected as the 15th national president of the League of Voters in 1998. She was the first woman of color to be elected president. [Click on link.](#)



"No one who has ever been a student at The Western can forget the spring days on our lovely campus; the rows of blossoming cherry and apple-trees bordering the walk over to Alumnae Hall; the soft blue film which touches the wide reach of country upon which we look out southward; the gorgeous sunsets seen from the front-room windows, and the wild flowers of the beech woods, east of the college, which have been gathered and rejoiced over for more than forty years by Western girls."

The Western-Oxford, May 1897

NELLIE CRAIG WALKER HALL Honors University, community pioneer

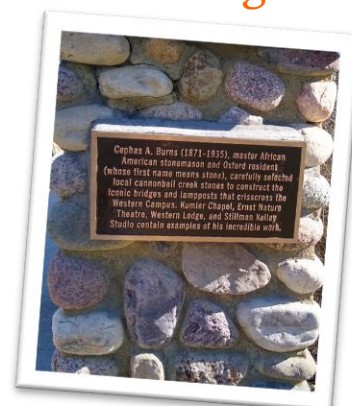
Nellie Craig was a trailblazer who broke new ground both at Miami University and in her community. Now, Miami's first Black graduate has a building named in her honor on the university's Oxford campus. Nellie was born in Oxford, earned her two-year teaching certificate and was the first Black educator to student teach in the Oxford Public School system in a mixed race classroom.

Upon graduation, Craig was an elementary teacher in Indiana.

[READ the full article.](#)

New Plaque Installed on Bridge

Cephas A. Burns plaque has been installed. It reads: "Cephas A. Burns (1871 – 1935), master African American stonemason and Oxford resident (whose first name means stone), carefully selected local cannonball creek stones to construct the iconic bridges and lampposts that crisscross the Western Campus. Kumler Chapel, Ernst Nature Theatre, Western Lodge, and Stillman Kelley Studio contain examples of his incredible work."



Thank You for Your Annual Fund Donation

You know that the Western College Alumnae Association would not be here if it were not for your generous annual donations to scholarships, legacy projects, class gifts, and so many other choices to support. We can't thank you enough and we hope you will continue to support your class, your scholarship winners, keep the Bulletin in print, and participate in Western's final legacy project, the *Western College Legacy Seminars*.

[Link to our Secure Giving Page Online](#)

Your mind is still active so try something new. Love. Honor. Learn.

So many different ways to learn... MU Alumni Association Events hosts many virtual webinars, and of course these are free and open to Westerners.

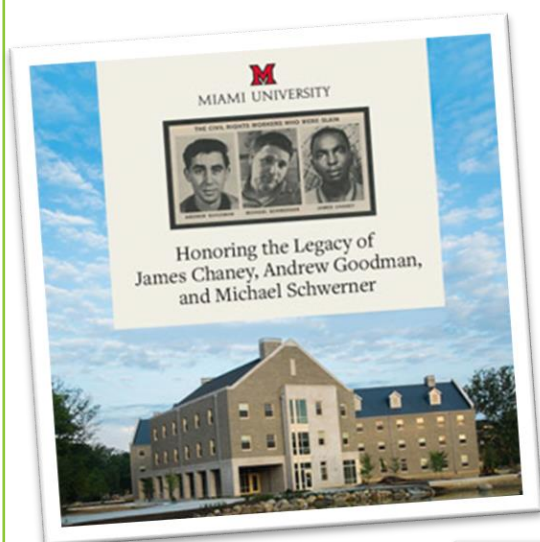
[Click on the link](#) and find something you might like.



Honoring the Legacy of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner

The virtual dedication of the Western Residence Hall Lobbies, in honor of three slain civil rights activists, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner was held on February 24, 2021.

The residence halls are near the grounds where they trained during the Freedom Summer Project in 1964.



**Where are these pictures on Campus? Send us an email.
You could win a WCAA gift!**

1

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Remarkable Western College Sisters We've Lost

Often when family members share the obituaries of lost loved ones, we learn many things about our Western sisters that we did not know previously. In honor of their accomplishments and to commemorate our commonalities and differences, we're sharing.



Dorcas Robson '46

Deceased July 2020

Western prepared Dorcas for a distinguished career as an elementary school teacher. Against her father's wishes – because golf was a man's game – Dorcas became an avid golfer and won the women's championship at Montecito in 1993. She traveled frequently in the U.S. and abroad sometimes accompanied by a Western professor. Dorcas's last trip to Scotland occurred right after Princess Diana was married, and she sat behind the royal couple in church when they returned from their honeymoon. Dorcas served as Western 1946 class representative from 1999 to 2010.

Dorothy Riggin Johnson '49

Deceased July 2020

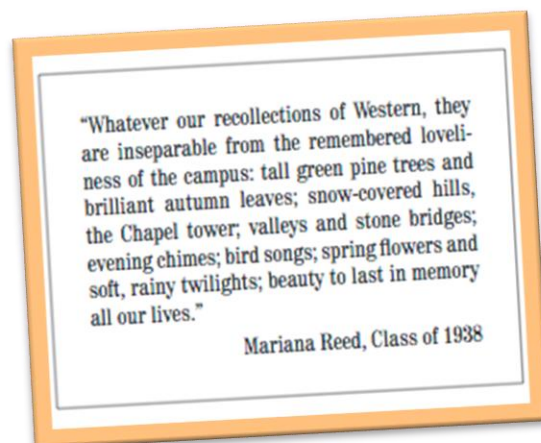


Dorothy studied home economics at Western and served as a volunteer in her community. She is survived by five sons, fifteen grandchildren, and 32 great-grandchildren. Dorothy's family founded Riggin's Dairy in 1911 in Muncie, Indiana. Her family has significantly expanded the operations to include a large milk receiving station in Berne, and become manufacturers of goat milk yogurt and cheese under the Swissland Milk Company brand name.

Send Us Your News!

You can submit your Class Notes online...have you tried it yet? Here's how...go to this webpage, write up your notes, and press submit! Yes, it's that easy.

[Here's the link...](#)



Been on a great trip recently?

Oh, the Western College ladies love to travel...and travel all over the world, as well as to places in the United States that interest them...and alone or with friends and family. We want to hear about your recent trips...would you share? [Email us](#) and attach any pictures too...

Western College Scholarship Recipients

I am honored to be a recipient of the WCAA Rowena Snyder International Exchange Scholarship for the 2020/2021 school year. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your support of students who have desire to experience the world but lack the necessary financial means. When deciding which colleges to apply to as a High School senior in Westerville Ohio, study abroad was an important factor for me to consider, I have always had a strong passion for learning about cultures outside of my own and knew that the best way to understand a culture is through immersion. The amazing study abroad department, including a wide variety of financial aid opportunities, were what ultimately led me to choose Miami. I am now in my third year and I desire to go abroad more than ever. As a psychology major with a minor in East Asian Studies, I hope to one day become a clinical psychologist that puts all my energy into advocating for the right to proper mental health care in East Asian countries that do not traditionally value it.

A couple of months ago, I was grappling with the realization that I may not be able to afford going abroad, despite being accepted into a good program. Like many other Americans, my family has experienced the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on several levels, financial being the most devastating. The WCAA Rowena Snyder International Exchange Scholarship has lifted such a large amount of financial pressure off my family's shoulders and me. It allows me to be able to afford my goal of traveling to Korea and fully immersing myself in the Korean culture. I will be able to learn about the way psychology is viewed and taught in Korea firsthand through Korean Psychology classes. Thank you so very much for aiding in my achievement of such an amazing opportunity.

Kyla Stone



I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for being chosen as one of the recipients of the WCAA Rowena Snyder Peabody Scholarship. It is kindness like that of your organization that has allowed me to complete another successful semester at Miami University. You have taken me one-step closer to my degree and graduation.

I am a later in life college student, who overcame many obstacles in life to be able to dedicate myself to school. I am a mother to three wonderful children, my oldest of which has severe special needs. I first began my school journey at Miami when he was just an infant ten years ago. Life quickly became too chaotic, we were in and out of the hospital his first two years of life, and his needs took precedence in my life. In August of 2018, I finally returned to Miami and have made it my personal mission to complete this degree program I started a decade ago. I am finally doing it!

After graduation, I plan to go on to work for the United States government, specifically under the U.S. Department of Energy. They strive to keep America safe and prosperous, manage and clean up nuclear testing and manufacturing sites all over the country that remain after the Cold War, and are leading the way in promoting a cleaner, more sustainable form of energy for our American people. I have been privileged to complete two internships with DOE, and am confident that this is the organization I want to begin a career.

In closing, I just want to say thank you (a million times!) for what the WCAA Rowena Snyder Peabody Scholarship has done for me. The scholarship not only provided me the financial support to continue with my education, but gave me a tangible reward for the hard work I have been doing at Miami. It made me feel valued, motivated, and worthy. I cannot thank you all enough for that, especially in such a physically and emotionally trying year as 2020 has been. As the semester is quickly coming to a close, I anticipate ending with all A's again. Your support played a role in that and my success! I will continue to make your organization proud and show you that your kindness has not been unappreciated or wasted. Thank you for everything you have done for me as well as

other students.

Spring time pursuits

Cooking, grilling, sewing, reading, golfing, singing, pickle ball, visiting friends, writing a book, visiting grandkids, catching butterflies, travelling, riding a bicycle, watching Netflix or Prime, planning a meal at a restaurant, getting your COVID-19 shots, relaxing, cleaning your space, swimming, enjoying your favorite libation....what about you?

Submit Your Class Notes! (Online)



All-Western Virtual Alumnae/i Weekend
June 11-12, 2021



Your WCAA Board of Trustees

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**We are strong. We are Western.
We are giving.
Your current Board of Trustees
serves you gratefully!**

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