

WESTERN

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | SUMMER 2020



Margaret Wong
A JOURNEY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Western Magazine
Summer 2020
Vol. 71, No. 3

Managing Editor
Alisha Barnett Looney MA '13

Magazine Designer
Shanee Plate '00

Contributing Writers
Brad Bainter '79 MS '83
Alisha Barnett Looney MA '13
Kathy Nichols '89 MA '94
Jodi Pospeschil MA '15
Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89 MS '98

Director of Alumni Programs
Amy Spelman MS '98

**Executive Director of
University Communications**
Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89 MS '98

**Executive Officer
WIU Foundation**
Brad Bainter '79 MS '83

**Western Illinois University
Interim President**
Martin Abraham

Printed by the authority of the
State of Illinois
8/2020 • 000,000

Letter from the President

Dear Alumni & Friends,

As we enter the ninth month of 2020, to say the last several months of this year have been challenging would be an understatement. Not only has a devastating pandemic swept across the globe, we have seen firsthand the tragic consequences of racial injustices, and our University has not been immune.

In March 2020, following Spring Break, Western, like nearly every institution in the nation, was forced to transition to a remote learning and work format for the health and safety of our University community. Our faculty and staff worked quickly to develop the alternative delivery content needed to complete the spring semester, and because of their heroic efforts and dedication, we successfully met our students' educational needs. On May 10, for the first time in Western's history, we held a virtual commencement to celebrate our Spring 2020 graduates.

We are working hard to ensure a safe return to campus for Fall 2020 amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We are putting protocols in place—such as mandatory face coverings in and out of the classroom, smaller class sizes to ensure maximum social distancing, staggered class times, combinations of online and in-person classes and much more—to protect our campus communities against the pandemic. Faculty and staff are doing what they always do, stepping up in true Leatherneck fashion, to ensure that our students get the excellent educational experience they deserve. Visit wiu.edu/coronavirus for more details.

During this pandemic, which has claimed so many lives, we also were witness to the killing of George Floyd that reignited the Black Lives Matter Movement and brought new attention to the systemic racism that is endemic in our society. From Mr. Floyd in Minneapolis to Ahmaud Arbery of Brunswick, GA to Breonna Taylor of Louisville, KY to sadly many more, what happens in our nation has affected our University.

I, along with WIU Alumnus and Trustee Doug Shaw, had the honor of meeting virtually with a few of our Black Student Association Executive Board members to have a frank discussion about the racial injustices and discrimination faced by our Black students on our campus and in our community. We have developed some immediate action items, and will continue to work with our BSA leadership and other student organizations on longer term activities and to ensure we stay focused on working to make WIU and our host communities better. As I have stated publicly, I will continue to speak out to ensure our students are welcome and safe in our communities.

I appointed an Assistant to the President for Diversity, Dr. Sterling Saddler. We modified our hiring practices last year to enhance inclusivity and to increase diversity among applicants. We organized training activities for our faculty and staff in January, and brought them together again to discuss Ibram Kendi's book, "How to be an Antiracist." We have begun the process, but we have a long way to go.

To be sure we are a welcoming and safe University for our diverse populations, we are implementing training programs for our faculty and staff, improving our reporting system for incidents of harassment, discrimination and other policy violations and ensuring best and equitable practices within our Office of Public Safety.

We are also on target (at press time) for our Fall 2020 enrollment and retention goals. To date, we anticipate the highest incoming new student class in three years, with over 1,000 new freshmen and more than 700 new transfers enrolling this fall. We expect that our overall enrollment will be up compared to Spring 2020, which will be the first time in many years that we will see an increase from one semester to the next. Finally, we anticipate that freshmen retention will be the highest in over a decade, and has a chance to equal, or exceed, the all-time high of 79 percent. While the situation certainly remains fluid given the pandemic and mandates from state and federal government and health officials, we remain optimistic.

The Fall 2020 semester will be different than any previous semester in our 120-year history, with new methods for teaching classes and many changes to events and programs. Regardless, Western will be here for our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Thank you for your support and commitment to WIU.


Martin Abraham, Interim President

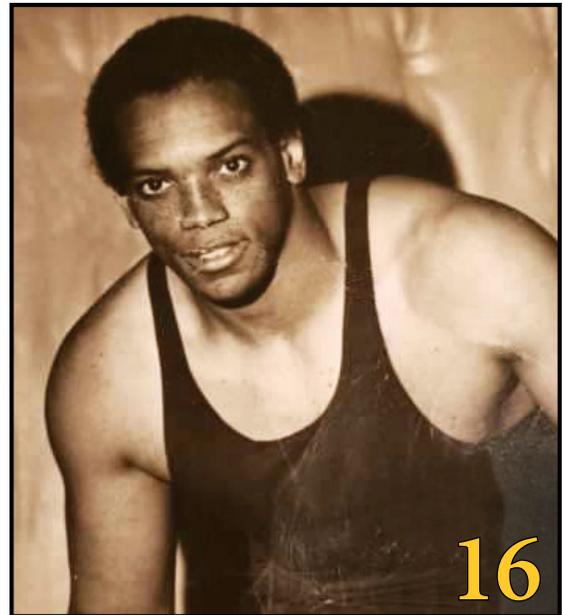


WESTERN

SUMMER 2020

Features

- 7 Faculty Members Step Up to COVID-19
WIU faculty found unique ways to reach their students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 16 Jim Woods
The tenacious work ethic of Jim Woods led him to a successful career as the first Black firefighter in the Quad Cities.
- 20 Margaret Wong
From Hong Kong to Macomb, Margaret Wong has had a long and successful journey to become a top immigration attorney in the United States, changing and improving so many lives as she goes.



Departments

- 3 University News
- 6 Giving Back to Western
- 12 What I Know Now
- 24 Blast From the Past
- 28 Straight From a Student
- 30 Athletics
- 33 Alumni Class Notes
- 40 Save the Date for Homecoming & Reunion

Cover Photo

Margaret Wong receiving Distinguished Alumni Award pictured with Dean Susan Martinelli-Fernandez

Have tips, questions or comments for the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine? Email AA-Looney@wiu.edu. To send us your news, see pg. 41.

-  facebook.com/WesternILUniv
-  instagram.com/WesternILUniv
-  twitter.com/WesternILUniv
-  snapchat.com/add/WesternILUniv
-  bit.ly/WIULinkedIn

Letter from

WIU Alumni Council President

Brian Savage '73

Dear Fellow Leatherneck Alumni and Friends,

As I enter my second year as President of the WIU Alumni Council, I want to share some thoughts on the important and long-overdue issues impacting WIU and some amazing accomplishments of the past year.

When I started my career at Western in 1969, the country was grappling with Civil Rights issues and an unpopular war. Students were shot at Kent State and at Jackson State in the spring of 1970 for being vocal in their activism. Racial injustice was prevalent then and it continues today. Here we are, 50 years later, still fighting the issues of systemic racism and police brutality. We still struggle to ensure that WIU and Macomb are a safe and welcoming place for our Black students and alumni.

I want to make clear that discrimination, harassment, and hate have no place here. You may have seen our Black students and alumni speaking out on social media about their experiences at Western and sharing examples of the discrimination and hostility they experienced on and off campus. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are hurting.

We can, and we must, do better. We cannot deny that racism is real and that WIU and Macomb are not immune. As Leathernecks we cannot be bystanders. We will work closely with Interim President Abraham and the Alumni Programs office to contribute to the conversation and put our support behind recent initiatives. Expect to hear more from the Alumni Council and me going forward.

The Alumni Council needs more Black voices and should reflect the community it represents. Our group of 25 alumni are charged with governing the Alumni Association. We provide direction regarding alumni engagement, work with the Foundation to support fundraising, choose our alumni award recipients, assist with recruitment and retention initiatives, and more.

Thank you for standing up and speaking out for what is right.

The past year saw significant accomplishments: The state legislature passed the FY21 budget with \$89 million capital funding for the Center for the Performing Arts and \$94.5 million for a Science Building; an Alumni Legacy Scholarship program was initiated for children/grandchildren of WIU graduates with an automatic \$1,500 per year; an additional \$30,000 was raised during our Leatherneck Legacy annual fundraising program providing 20 scholarships for children and grandchildren of alumni and improvements to the Alumni House; and nearly 1,000 bricks were purchased for the Alumni Plaza brick project raising over \$130,000 with donors from 31 states. Thank you to everyone for their support of these projects.

Plans are currently underway for the Mega Reunion (now postponed until 2021), which began when alumnus Chris Foltz started a Facebook page for his classmates and friends to share WIU stories and memories. It has now grown to over 20,000 followers with 4,000 expected to return to campus with hopes of breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest reunion ever. We commend Chris on his effort and a job well done!

At our December commencement, I had the honor to present the Alumni

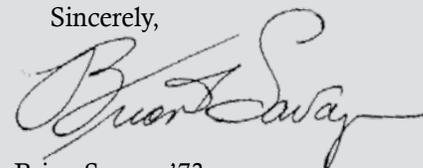
Achievement Award to five diverse, successful, and deserving alumni. Congratulations to Emmerson Buie, Jr. '87, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Chicago Field Office; Kim R. Ekena '80, retired vice president of marketing for the American River Transportation Company; Phillip C. Giles '84, managing director for MSL Captive Solutions, Inc.; Carol E. Scott '70, retired professor and coordinator of faculty and instructional development and director of development at the College of DuPage; and Christopher L. Washington '87, executive vice president/CEO of Urbana University (a branch campus of Franklin University). It was electrifying, exciting, and spirited. What a thrill to see all the graduates and new members of the WIU Alumni Association!

On July 1, we welcomed Scott Clarke '81, Darryl Hollimon '83 '93, Molly Holmes '01 '04, Victoria Kappel '16 '18 and Wayne Whipps '77 as new members of the Alumni Council. Thank you for volunteering your time and contributing to your alma mater.

Western continues to need your help. Every bit of your time volunteering or visiting, any help you may provide in recruitment of students and every dollar makes a difference. Please consider giving to our great University. As alumni and permanent trustees of WIU, we need to make the effort to make a difference.

Once a Leatherneck, always a Leatherneck! Go Necks! Take a stand!

Sincerely,



Brian Savage '73

University News

WIU COVID-19 Dashboard & Map Hits One Million Views

While the state has begun its abbreviated re-openings of businesses, schools and more across Illinois, the COVID-19 pandemic remains at the forefront and numerous protocols are in place to continue to flatten the curve. To help keep citizens up-to-date with the latest statistics and information, the statewide COVID-19 web map and dashboard launched in mid-March by the Western Illinois University GIS Center, in cooperation with the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Geographic Information Sciences (EAGIS) and the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA), continues. And as of June 16, the map had over one million views and remains the official public dashboard in Illinois, shared by state and federal agencies, as well as numerous news outlets throughout Illinois.

The dashboard initially began with map layers for Illinois and surrounding counties and was quickly expanded to include every county and state in the U.S. for comparative purposes. Initially, indicator panels were included showing

active cases and deaths for Illinois only.

“As the dashboard grew in popularity and the map layers were expanded nationwide, we added nationwide and global statistics, as well as additional map views. We’ve also added an informative, interactive infographic produced by Our World in Data that displays Covid-19 related deaths among countries to show how the United States compares to other countries through time. We actively monitor the growth of cases throughout the state of Illinois. Only Scott County is left as the only of Illinois’ 102 counties without a reported Covid-19 case,” explained WIU GIS Center Director and ILGISA President Chad Sperry ’95.

According to Christopher Sutton ’88 MA ’91 EAGIS cartography and GIS professor, as data related to COVID-19 became more accessible, the WIU team adapted the dashboard to include new information.

“When Gov. Pritzker’s Restore Illinois program went into effect, we expanded monitoring of confirmed

cases and deaths in the state to include testing. Because the number of confirmed cases can reflect the level of testing (i.e., more tests results in more confirmed cases), we added a chart showing cases as a percentage of the number of tests,” Sutton added. “Thus, we are able to make more meaningful comparisons of the virus in Illinois over time. It additionally has shown us a substantial decline in the percentage of positive cases. In April, the state was regularly seeing 20-25 percent of tests coming back as positive. We’ve been under 10 percent since late May.”

Data at the county level are reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health and respective agencies in states bordering Illinois. The map is updated once a day as the IDPH and other agencies release official reports. While the map data may lag slightly behind cases that are reported by news outlets, the information presented still remains relatively current.

To view the map, visit wiu.edu/illinoisCovidmap. ●



Human Resource Management Now Offered Online

The Western Illinois University College of Business and Technology began offering an online human resource management degree this fall. WIU is one of very few schools in the state to provide this offering.

The new option for students expands flexibility to take classes online, join remotely during live lectures, watch recorded lectures or combine online learning with face-to-face classes on the Macomb or Quad Cities campuses. In addition, all curriculum is aligned with the educational guidelines put forth by the Society for Human Resource Management.

“The online human resource management degree allows both traditional and non-traditional students, with the capability, to complete the degree from anywhere at any time,” said Human Resource Management Professor Susan Stewart.

In addition, the offering is a value to students enrolled in institutions that have 2+2 agreements with WIU. The major allows students to move directly from earning an associate degree into the online program to finish their bachelor’s degree at WIU.

According to College of Business and Technology Interim Dean Craig Conrad ’89 MBA ’91, WIU human

resource management faculty have been developing and teaching online and in hybrid formats for several years in support of existing online offerings.

“Because of the human resource management faculty’s online and hybrid experience, WIU is able to offer a wide variety of courses in these formats, such as employment law, staffing, performance management, benefits and more,” Conrad said.

For more information on the new online human resource management degree offering, visit wiu.edu/academics/hrm. ●

WIU Environmental Researchers Certified by Ecological Society of America

Professor Roger Viadero, director of Western Illinois University’s Environmental Science Ph.D. program, was recently recertified as a Certified Senior Ecologist (CSE).

Viadero is an aquatic environmental engineer with expertise designing, conducting and leading large-scale environmental assessments that involve stakeholders from a variety of academic, regulatory and nongovernmental organizations. He is also board certified by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists, with a specialty in hazardous waste management and site remediation.

Michele Rehbein, a Ph.D. candidate in Western’s ES Ph.D. program, was also recognized as an ESA Certified Ecologist. Rehbein conducts research on the abiotic factors that influence the abundance of disease-carrying mosquitoes in the rural upper Midwest.

“Beyond possessing the highest academic qualifications, Michele is a thoughtful and creative researcher as well as a confident leader among her peers,” said Viadero.

Rehbein will defend her dissertation during the fall semester.

The ESA Certification process began in 1981 to identify and

recognize individuals with the education, training, and experience needed to ensure that ecological science is considered in environmental policy and decision making at local, regional, national and international levels. For more information about the program, visit wiu.edu/ies. ●





LEJA Professor Bringing 'HOPE' to Illinois Prison



An effort to put the concept of restorative justice into practice for Western Illinois University Law Enforcement and Justice Administration students has led one faculty member to bring “HOPE” to a local prison.

LEJA Professor Anthony McBride asked inmates at the Henry C. Hill Correctional Facility in Galesburg, IL to take a pledge. McBride said the idea uses a technology platform, such as Zoom, to bring HOPE into the prison system by using restorative justice to teach offenders about repairing the harm done to their victim or victims and to the community. It also has a goal of offenders leaving prison in a better place than when they started serving their sentence.

“The idea of instilling HOPE in offenders is so they may one day take responsibility for their actions, understand how their crime impacted their communities and then come to a place where they can be reformed and accepted back into society,” McBride said. “This idea manifests in the roots of the restorative justice philosophy that views three parties with very important value and roles in the process of justice, victims, offenders and communities, a totally different criminal justice perspective that sought to focus most of its attention on the offender.”

Through the program, McBride asks the offenders to make the following pledge:

Today I pledge to let go of all the anger and the negative images I established prior to my incarceration.

Today I pledge to develop a skill and obtain some education during my rehabilitation process.

Today I pledge to admit that I have hurt someone and will work to make sure this will never happen again.

Today I pledge to do the right thing in my search of discovering internal hope and when I finally conquer my hope, I pledge to never let it go.

Today I pledge to love myself, my family, others around me and outside of me and when those who has lost hope in me see me again they will be surprised.

And, when I re-enter society, I will enter as a changed man and pledge to serve/educate others. And if I never get released, I pledge to serve/educate my peers so one day they can say I met someone that guided me to my journey of finding hope.

Today I pledge for internal hope.

Based on letters McBride has received from inmates he has asked to take the HOPE pledge, McBride said they would like to see more programming become more permanent. That process has not yet started because of the coronavirus pandemic. After the pandemic, the plan is to bring the program back into prisons and involve students in the process.

McBride said the administration at the Galesburg prison has been gracious over the years to allow WIU LEJA students into the medium-security facility for tours and to hear from and speak to inmates. He spoke to the inmates about HOPE in February as part of Black History Month.

“The staff and inmates are open to restorative philosophy and programming ideas and, on occasion, request faculty to present to their inmates,” he said. “Over the years, as I take students to visit

correctional institutions, I notice that some students have some anxiety as they don’t know what to expect when entering a medium correctional institution. Most of the anxiety I sense comes from what they watched on television series that depict crime and fear. These shows can scare students away from careers in corrections. Part of the goal of the visit and presentation is to address some of these concerns and anxiety.”

McBride said the corrections opportunity also provides him the opportunity to interact with students outside the classroom and to see them grow personally from the experience.

“I believe in order for our students to confront myths they have been told or what they believe they’ve witnessed, they must first get to know that population to form their own understanding,” he said. “When our students get the opportunity to speak with and listen to inmates talk about their crimes and how they victimized their victim(s) and communities, this is where our students begin to connect the value of social responsibilities. The stories the inmates share are gruesome, sad, painful and hurtful. Students learn that some crimes committed are more than just about free will or choice. There are factors that contribute to an individual committing a crime(s), such as age, mental health conditions, psychological, biological and other mitigating factors.”

The inmates involved experience a “sense of relief,” McBride said, when they talk with students about their cases. He added that he sees the inmates demonstrating ownership for their actions.

For more information about the LEJA program at WIU, visit wiu.edu/LEJA. ●

Purple & Gold Day of Caring

Raises More than \$110k for Student Emergency Fund

By Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89 MS '98

For 20 years, Western Illinois University has celebrated Purple & Gold Day on April 24 to commemorate the day in 1899 when the Illinois Legislature approved the creation of what would become WIU. In “typical” years, the WIU Alumni Association would host events around the nation to celebrate Leatherneck pride, but 2020 isn’t a “typical” year.

This year, for the first time in the celebration’s history, Purple & Gold Day went virtual, and added a new component: Day of Caring. The Western Challenge—a 24-hour fundraising event—is usually held in conjunction with Purple & Gold Day, and donors pledge gifts to areas of their choosing. During the 2020 Purple & Gold Day of Caring, individuals were asked to donate to the Student Emergency Fund, which was established by WIU to assist Western’s students impacted by the pandemic.

As a result of the daylong celebration and fundraising campaign, more than \$110,000, which includes a generous match of \$25,000 by the

WIU Foundation, was raised for the emergency fund. In addition, WIU Professors Emeriti Charlene Callison and Larry Balsamo matched \$5,000 once \$25,000 was raised during the event, and University Professionals of Illinois, WIU’s faculty union, donated \$1,000, along with many other organizations and groups, individuals and corporations, to the emergency fund. An additional \$14,000 was raised for other areas of the University. Over 1,400 students have applied for the emergency grants, which do not have to be repaid. The funds can be used for rent/housing, food, medical needs, technology and more.

“Every year, we’re amazed at the support and participation we have on this special day. But this year, words cannot even express our gratitude and appreciation,” said Annual Fund Director Tim Hallinan ’95. “Thank you to everyone who took part in our Purple & Gold Day of Caring. I am so proud to be a Leatherneck.”

Along with the fundraising aspect of the day, because of the ongoing

pandemic and stay at home order, WIU’s Alumni Programs and other University departments and organizations put on their creative thinking caps and came up with virtual events—both live via Zoom and pre-recorded videos—to engage faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends all day long.

“Thank you Leatherneck nation! We knew our Western family was going to come together to embrace our students and each other on the Purple & Gold Day of Caring, but we had no idea the support would be at the level it was,” said Alumni Programs Director Amy Spelman. “More than 1,000 alumni, friends, parents and students joined us throughout the day by participating in our events and contributing to the fund. You know it’s another great day to be a Leatherneck when you end it with tears of joy.” ●

wiu.edu/giving



Thank you
from WIU!

Purple & Gold Day of Caring

Faculty Members Step Up to COVID-19

This past spring, like every other university in the country, Western Illinois University faculty members were faced with the unique challenge of quickly moving all of their coursework online. As usual, WIU faculty found unique ways to reach their students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Jodi K. Pospeschil MA '15

Student-Centered Teaching

After classes at Western transitioned to an online format for the balance of the semester because of the impact of the Coronavirus, many faculty developed unique ways to present quality academic content to students, while still making the information interesting, relatable and sometimes fun.

WIU Theatre and Dance Associate Instructor Adam Lewis MFA '98 was teaching two large lecture, general education sections of Introduction to Theatre and had been using YouTube to create videos for his students that both inform and entertain.

"As all this started to happen, I quickly realized that moving this class online was in many ways not going to be easy for all. Some students don't have reliable wifi, or even computers for that matter. Add to that the pressures of family life, and—yeah, Zoom wasn't going to work—but I know all my students have a phone. I see them going to them when I start to drone on during boring bits."

Lewis said he came to the realization that because he used YouTube a lot in his traditional, on-campus classroom, he may as well create his own channel.

"I've been filming, editing and churning out my lectures via YouTube, which if you have a phone, you have access to it without cost," he said.

The feedback Lewis received to his new YouTube channel was extremely positive and he could tell students were watching the lectures because only those with a link can watch. His channel

maintains a count of how many times the videos are viewed.

Along with the altered delivery method, Lewis has been having fun converting his lectures into short films. He said experience has taught him that if he is having fun, his students are too.



"My creative brain has definitely been busy," he said. "Also, I like to think of my 110 class as a class that puts knowledge claymores in a student's head: it might be years before they trip over a particular nugget I dropped in class."

Lewis has taught this introductory class every semester, sometimes as much as two or three times a semester, for the past 11 years. He said the unconventional times the U.S. is facing have required a reaction that uses unconventional methods. Streamlining the lessons has made Lewis "get to the

point" in presenting his material and double check his research.

Lewis said, "It's been nice to set aside typical worries a teacher sometimes has and focus mainly on the three big things: What is your lesson, how can it be taught and how much spectacle is needed?"

After the students returned to the electronic classroom after spring break, they took Lewis' midterm exam. He then asked them how they were doing while dealing with the pandemic. He said their answers set the tone for how his classroom plan moved forward. Students were facing issues they wouldn't traditionally face, such as lessened access to wifi, or caring for ill family members.

"This was a nice kick in the pants," he said. "So, I try to just teach them about theatre, hopefully give them a chuckle while doing so, and give them a few moments to escape from all this."

Another reaction to the forced classroom changes has been how he grades assignments. He said he had to amend his syllabus and make deadlines "more fluid."

"If I've had to change any aspect of the class, I've had to check myself, embrace empathy and understanding, and be much more patient," he said. "I'm the tiniest part of a student's day right now. I want, and they need, that to be a bright and positive part. In acting, we try to teach young actors to embrace the given circumstances, live in the moment and 'yes and' anything that comes your way. These times call for exactly that."

In Fall 2020, Lewis will become the head of WIU's BA Performance program. ●

Active Learning

Monitoring the interest of students during lecture sessions in a higher education classroom is one of the benefits of teaching courses in person. But WIU Earth, Atmospheric and Geographic Information Sciences Professor Redina Finch found she was reaching out to students more than in a typical semester to make sure they understood the material.

“Normally, I’m at the front of the class and can see that they’re understanding the material,” she said. “I’d thrown in an in-class activity to break things up. That’s much harder when we moved online.”

Finch’s introductory classes study weather and climate, and she created a series of videos to teach students about atmospheric circulation, then challenged them to recreate it in a three-dimensional model, using just paper and tape. She assigned them to photograph the construction process and submit them through the University’s WesternOnline system.

“The three-dimensional nature of motion in the atmosphere is one of the hardest topics for students to understand,” she said. “They had a lot of fun with this assignment.”

“In addition, I send my students to various websites to do activities, see pictures and look at videos of the weather in action—far more interesting than a talking head or a PowerPoint slide,” she said.

WIU junior law enforcement and justice administration major Asia Billingslea said transitioning to online classes was difficult at first, but Finch made it easier.

“Professor Finch made YouTube videos and drawings to further explain the course material,” she said. “Her number one priority was that her students understood everything we were taught about meteorology.”

In the advanced meteorology classes, students now apply what they are learning to a weather case in place of exams.

“Ultimately the goal for a meteorology program is for students to be able to apply what they have learned to better understand and predict the weather,” said Finch. “Analyzing an interesting weather event is a good way to prove you understand the material.”

Students who hadn’t previously talked in class are now contributing

too, which Finch calls a “good thing to come from teaching online.”

While Finch’s coursework could incorporate aspects of the pandemic, such as looking at a tornado outbreak or how staying at home has impacted air pollution around the world, she chose not to because students are already being inundated with information about the outbreak.

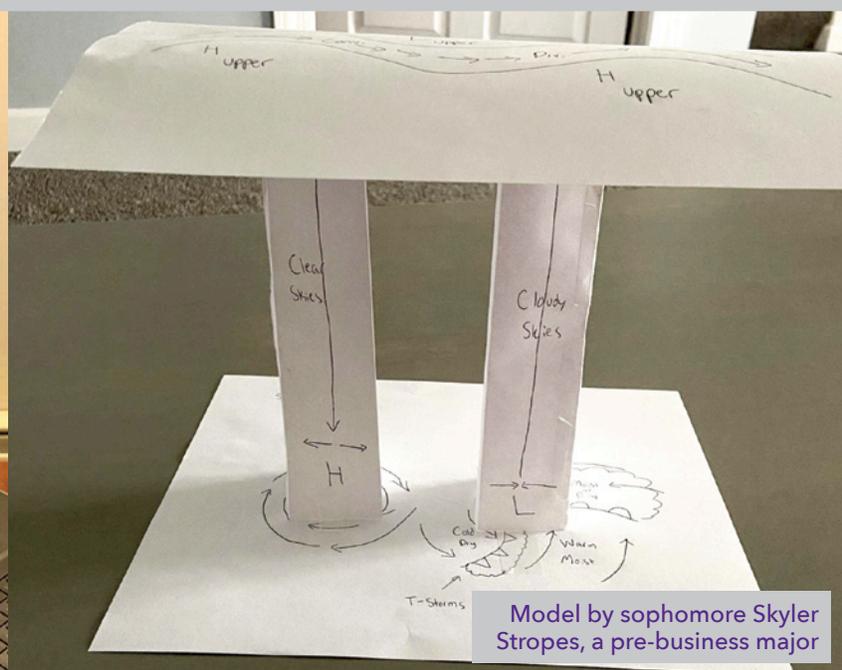
“They are living the drama,” she said. “I don’t want to add to that drama. Instead I made the class a little more Discovery Channel than I normally would to provide some escapist fun, while teaching them the information they need.”

In terms of adapting to the alternative format, Finch said it has allowed her to learn the Open Broadcaster Software, which is something she has wanted to do for a few years. She said if there had been more time remaining in the semester, she would have had students make video assignments, as well.

“I will likely be incorporating them for years to come,” said Finch. “In my experience, educators are some of the most creative and giving people you can imagine.” ●



Junior law enforcement and justice administration major Asia Billingslea



Model by sophomore Skyler Strope, a pre-business major

Empowering Students

Western Illinois University School of Agriculture Director Andy Baker had an unusual perspective on alternative course delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic as he led a methods class for future teachers.

Baker said his Program Organization in Agricultural Education class provided his students the opportunity to learn how to teach content by distance learning. Students were assigned agriculture lessons to teach, then converted the lesson to be taught in an alternative format.

“If we were in our traditional, face-to-face format, they would have been teaching the lesson to their peers,” he said. “I told them what an opportunity that this pandemic has given to us. This will probably not be the last time that they will have to teach content to students via distance learning, so we need to embrace this opportunity. They more than exceeded my expectations. It was fun observing all of their creative techniques in developing their lesson plans and assessment strategies.”

Baker said the new formats, such as Zoom and Google hangouts, brought more fun into his classes and he was impressed with how students adapted to the technology changes and the quality of their work.

“I had fun with it,” he said. “Technology is one of those things you know you have to learn, but I was not expecting to learn at this pace. It was a very worthwhile learning experience for me. I never expect my students to do something that I wouldn’t do myself, so I had to keep pace with my students.”

Senior agriculture major Alicia Flowers, of Curryville, MO, said the learning experience was a new version for everyone involved.

“The real world experience we got was unbelievable,” she said. “While it has been challenging at times, it has allowed me to learn more than can be taught within the walls of a classroom.” ●



Senior Agriculture major Alicia Flowers

Compassionate Professors

As a professor who earned his Ed.D. studying mostly online, Glenn Daugherty '76 '77 knows the challenges his students face while studying law enforcement and justice administration (LEJA) in an alternative format during the pandemic.

Daugherty taught an introductory LEJA class, a writing and current issues class and an introduction to investigation class, and said his biggest obstacle was not being able to work face-to-face with his students, so he can see if they are understanding the material.

"The interaction between the students and the instructor is very important and helpful for me," he said. "When I bring up a topic, I can see in the faces of my students if they are getting it or if they have that look of confusion or terror on their faces. I then can ask questions to verify if they are assimilating the information, or if I need to clarify what I just presented. Once I feel confident that I have left no one in the dark, I can move on with my lecture."



WIU Sophomore Nicholas "Blaze" Ruggio said, "Professor Daugherty has real-world knowledge and the best stories that when I look back are not just stories, but lessons he has learned in his career."

This type of interaction is only possible through the online format by asking written questions to make sure students are understanding the material. Daugherty said the majority of his students seemed to adapt very well to the change in learning format, but his biggest concern is "burnout," which he said can be an element of online learning.

"These courses have time sensitive requirements, and time management is a skill that is necessary to successfully manage an online class," he said. "They had lesson challenges to write or research, along with any other writing assignments required as part of the course."

One way to combat burnout, Daugherty said, is to develop creative ways to make courses interesting, which can, in turn, be a challenge for instructors.

"Additionally, the professor needs to be available to answer student questions as soon as possible," he said. "I am spending six-eight hours a day on the computer developing my courses and keeping in contact with my students."

Daugherty has found that asking students to answer questions specifically created to challenge them on academic topics is important for their creativity and to use their critical thinking skills. He said one of the things often on his mind is how to reach students and he believes working in this alternative format has changed him as a professor.

When it comes to incorporating the pandemic into the classroom, Daugherty said it's difficult to avoid the topic when students have friends or family members impacted by the virus.

"I have had students who have had friends or a family member



hospitalized by the virus and it has affected their school work," he said. "Some have missed tests or assignment deadlines. I believe that due to this miserable pandemic, we need to be a little more understanding and accommodating regarding the special challenges students are facing."

Daugherty said he has also appreciated working with many of his fellow LEJA department members to grow as a faculty member.

"Working with these talented professionals has been a blessing and a joy for me," he said. "I love coming to work, and, if I have a problem, there is always someone willing to guide me through the issue. Academia is truly a different kind of beast and having caring co-workers who are willing to take time from their busy schedule to help me is something that has helped to make this the best job I have ever had."

Daugherty said he misses coming to campus and attending classes in-person, but added that he has changed his methodology and uses as many online tools as possible.

"I am an animated instructor, who likes to interject some humor and personal experiences from my former career as a police officer," he said. "I believe our students are very fortunate because all of our instructors in the LEJA department are past or current practitioners from many areas of the criminal justice, emergency services or firefighting professions. I believe that if we work together, put in some good effort and never lose focus, we can deliver our students an education they can be very proud of."

Read the full stories and many more about how faculty members provided students valuable and unique learning experiences in the wake COVID-19 at wiu.edu/news. ●

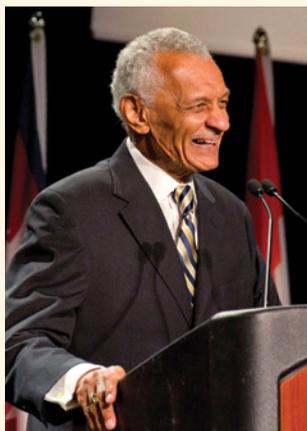
Remembering Civil Rights Icon and WIU Graduate C.T. Vivian

Western Illinois University remembers legendary Civil Rights activist and Macomb native the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian, who passed away July 17 at his home in Atlanta. He was 95.

Vivian, a distinguished, author, organizer and civil rights icon, graduated from Macomb High School in 1942 and went on to attend Western Illinois University, where he worked as the sports editor for the student newspaper. His career as an activist began in Peoria (IL), where he participated in his first sit-in demonstrations, which successfully integrated Barton's Cafeteria in 1947.

During his long career as a Civil Rights icon, Vivian served with Dr. Martin Luther King in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. He joined King's executive staff and served as the national director of affiliates for the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference. While in Chicago he organized and directed the Coalition for United Community Action. The group of 61 organizations became Chicago's Black Front.



"There must always be the understanding of what Martin had in mind for this organization," Vivian said in a 2012 interview. "Nonviolent, direct action makes us successful. We learned how to solve social problems without violence. We cannot

allow the nation or the world to ever forget that."

He was the first one of King's staff to write a book on the Civil Rights Movement, "Black Power and the American Myth." In 2013, he was among 16 individuals recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"I never would have been who I was if not for Macomb, Illinois," he said during a presentation at WIU in September 2010. "We'd lost everything

in the Great Depression, and they wanted to protect the one thing they still had [their child]. They wanted to leave Missouri because of segregation, so we came to Macomb because I could start first grade here and go all the way through college."

Vivian was the director of the Urban Theological Institute at Atlanta's Interdenominational Theological Center, a consortium of African-American seminaries, and was board chair of Capitol City Bank, a minority-owned bank with branches in eight locations in Georgia. Through his C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute, he fostered innovative leadership and career development for at-risk youth and college graduates.

"It was a great honor and privilege to have had this renowned champion of Civil Rights and social justice as a member of our WIU and Macomb communities," said WIU Interim President Martin Abraham. "His legacy will continue, and we will honor and memorialize the Rev. Dr. Vivian through our work to ensure social justice on our campuses and in our communities."

In October 2015, the Macomb High School Library was renamed the C.T. Vivian Library. The Rev. Dr. Vivian also served as the WIU Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal that year, and the City of Macomb issued an honorary designation of C.T. Vivian Way from University Drive to Carroll Street. In addition, Vivian was recognized as Western's dissertation fellowship and visiting professor programs are renamed the C.T. Vivian Dissertation Fellowship & Visiting Professor Teaching Scholars Programs. In September 2003, Macomb City officials designated a portion of West Murray Street from Stadium Drive to University Drive, the roadway through the campus, as C.T. Vivian Way. Vivian received an honorary doctorate from Western Illinois University in 1987. ●



1. The Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian at Macomb High School in 2011.
2. Dr. Martin Luther King talks with Nashville leaders of the sit-in demonstration, John Lewis, and Lester McKinnie, along with Atlanta minister C.T. Vivian, May 3, 1964.
3. The Rev. C. T. Vivian arguing with a militiaman during his 1961 Freedom Ride that ended with his arrest in Jackson, Mississippi.

What I Know Now

Vincent Stewart '81

In light of the current social climate, Western Illinois University would like to take this opportunity to highlight a piece written by WIU Alumnus Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart '81.

Stewart is the Founder and CEO of Stewart Global Solutions, LLC, an international consulting organization. He retired from the U.S. Marine Corps after more than 38 years of active commissioned service to the nation. On his final tour of duty, he served as the Deputy Commander United States Cyber Command, one of the 11 Combatant Commands of the Department of Defense with military and civilian personnel stationed worldwide. Prior to that assignment, he served as the 20th Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), culminating an intelligence career by overseeing the global defense intelligence enterprise supporting customers from the President of the United States, to the troops deployed around the world. In his other General Officer assignments, he served as the Commander, Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command and as the Director of Intelligence, for the U.S. Marine Corps.

I do not believe I can make you understand how the slow motion, horrifying, nonchalant murder of a black man has impacted me personally and saddened me for our country. The images invade my every thought and action and have convinced me that I can no longer be silent.

I am by all accounts a successful American who has truly lived the American dream. I am a first generation American who rose to the top of my profession. Some will look at my situation and say it is easy to achieve the American dream if you just work hard enough. Hard work is certainly a key ingredient to success, but sometimes there are simply too



many barriers that hard work simply won't overcome. For many people of color these barriers are reflected in emotions of fear, anger, isolation, contempt, resentment, despair and even hatred. What I often hear is that things are better than they were. But I also often hear that I just don't understand the anger, frustration and despair from the black community. So, let me try to explain from the perspective of a successful American.

I am going to present some of my experiences over the last 50 years for those who make up the privileged class, and I ask the reader to close their eyes and try to capture the emotion they would feel if this had been their own experience. I use the word "privilege" advisably because most won't think that they are a part of that class.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of coming to America from Jamaica and becoming a minority at that moment, separate and unequal and having that feeling on the first day of elementary

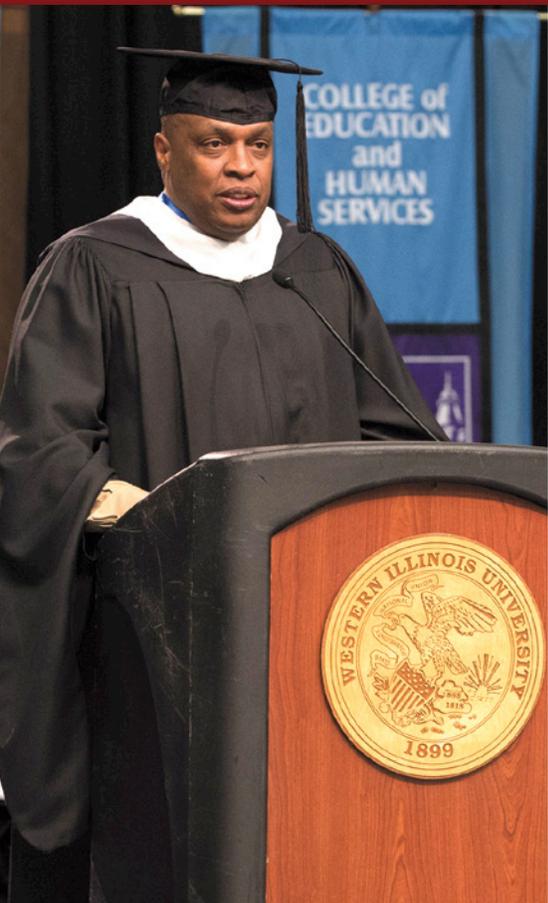
school. I didn't feel that even if constitutionally able, I could aspire to be the leader of my country or lead a major corporation or own my own business. I had no role models, no opportunity, no real future beyond manual low skill labor.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of a high school student being stopped and searched nearly every time I left my apartment—and for a simple reason—the color of my skin. I was never accused of anything; it was a simple stop and search of a young man just like so many others.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain from the first time I was called a nigger in anger and later playing on the same football team with the individual who called me a nigger. I knew what was in his heart, but we were teammates and we never spoke of the incident.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain I experienced working as a door to door encyclopedia salesman (yes—this was a thing before Google) when I was greeted by a man on his porch and informed that he would have shot me had I walked on his porch a month or so earlier, but he didn't, because he was a Christian now. I offered a hearty praise God and departed as quickly as my legs could move without running. It wasn't long before the local Sheriff picked me up, for 'my safety' and took me to his office. Later that evening, the Sheriff who had been hosting me until my manager would pick me up, offered to show me the house that a black





family had planned on moving into, which somehow burned to the ground the night before their planned move in. Needless to say, I declined the invitation.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of having a college roommate who was hostile and outwardly racist. We ended that relationship with blows being struck.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of being described as the best black officer in a unit, never able to be described as the best officer in the unit; never the first choice for visible prominent assignments in spite of a record of performance that was superior to my colleagues.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of looking around an executive level board room and realizing that you are the only person of color in the room; *block checked, we have one and that's all we need to have achieved diversity. It's a shame we couldn't get a black female, we could have checked two blocks.*

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain when your child begins to inquire about the requirements for joining a local swim club and is told there are no black people on the swim team and black people can't swim. The person who told her this laughed hysterically while telling this to a child.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain when your son is stopped in a car with three white friends. They had all been drinking to include the driver, who was white. The officers stated they had something special for my son. They took the three white friends from the car and released them. My son got to spend the night in jail.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain when your child's friend tells your son that they were not allowed to play with niggers.

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of trying to convince a member of Congress that I had earned my position as the

director of an agency; that it wasn't a gratuitous appointment because "you must be close to the President" (President Obama at the time).

It's hard for me to explain and help you understand the pain of instant surveillance when you enter a store because you are obviously a shoplifter or being stopped for driving while black or being ignored in a store because obviously you can't afford the merchandise. And I could go on. Just imagine, these are the experiences of someone who volunteered to defend the nation for over three decades and rose to become a Lieutenant General. Now imagine the experiences of those who are unable to escape generational poverty, their pain, and their anguish.

Few people of privilege have experienced what I've outlined above but every person of color can recognize almost every example I've described and have survived under these conditions every day, every month, every year of their lives. Surely there must be a long term psychological impact of this sort of systemic experience.

The emotions, the obstacles, the many challenges to overcome in our society did not stop me from being successful but, I didn't do it alone. I stood on the shoulders of the pioneers who broke through barriers at great sacrifice. Men like the Montford Point Marines who fought for the right to fight for liberty, freedom, and democracy paving the way for folks like me.

I was mentored and inspired by men like Generals Colin Powell, Cliff Stanley and Walt Gaskin. These men broke barriers that facilitated my success. I can't begin to imagine their stories and what they endured to reach the pinnacle of their profession.

But the men who had the greatest impact on my career were three white men of privilege LtGen (ret) Bob "Rusty" Blackman, GENs (Ret) Jim Amos and Joe Dunford. These men saw something in me and did more than mentor me; they sponsored me, advocated for me, and spoke up on my behalf. They did more than



VINCENT R. STEWART

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers—and it was not there . . . in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there . . . in her rich mines and her vast world commerce—and it was not there . . . in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution—and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

extend a hand to pull me up. They lifted and carried me to the top of my profession. These men were in positions that allowed them to carry me; they were able to use their levers of power and influence to elevate me to the top of my profession. Where would I have landed without the effort of these men?

This begs the question: Who are you lifting up and helping to get across the finish line? Platitudes are

nice. But this country needs action. If you are in a position of power and privilege, I challenge you to mentor and advocate for people who don't look like you.

I can't stop believing in the promise of America, because if the dream is not possible here, it's not possible anywhere.

In his book “Democracy in America,” Alexis de Tocqueville wrote:

We must prove to a large part of our own population that we are good. As a person who has had incredible success in this country, I am directly appealing to those in positions of power and privilege to recognize the experiences of your fellow Americans who do not look like you, and to take real, specific actions to uplift others. ●



After over 38 years of service, Stewart retired at the rank of lieutenant general in 2019.

JIM WOODS

The Hallmark of a Leatherneck: Tenacity & Perseverance

By Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89 MS '98
and Brad Bainter '79 MS '83

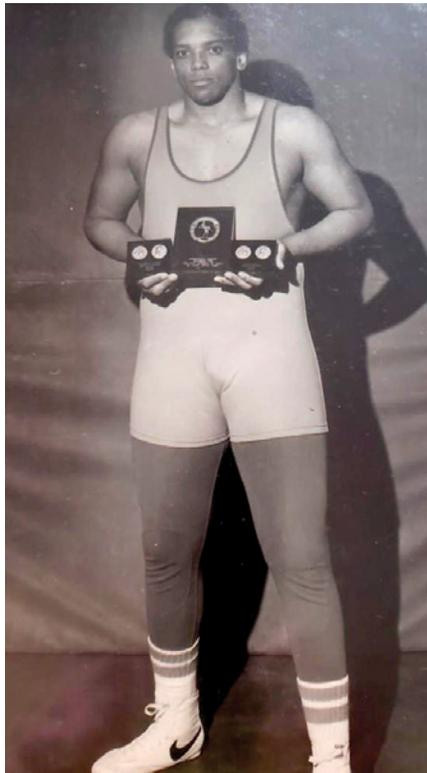
While the biologist and chemist Louis Pasteur is credited with saying, “Let me tell you the secret that has led to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity,” this famous quotation could have certainly been said by—and been the motto of—Western Illinois University Alumnus Jim Woods '74.

The WIU graduate grew up in Chicago Heights, in an inner city neighborhood. For Woods, sports was his refuge and served as a place to stay out of trouble. Wrestling, track, football, Woods did it all, putting all he had into these sports.

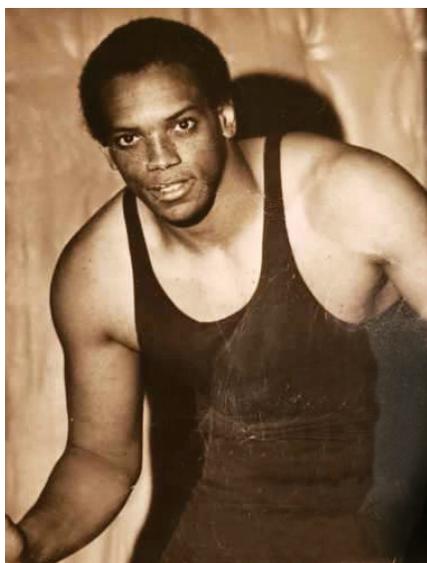
“I loved sports. I was a hard worker, and my senior year I received the Jim Bouton 110% Award for being the hardest working athlete. My sports resume was thin—I wasn't the best athlete—but my work ethic gave me stead,” he remembered.

Woods' alma mater, Bloom High School, produced exceptional athletes, so college scouts were a fixture at his school. Two students from Bloom won state wrestling championships, so that brought recruiters to the school. Woods' wrestling coach, Tom Koenig, wouldn't let WIU Coach Bob McMahan out the door without telling him about his heavyweight wrestler, who happened to be Jim Woods. Coach Koenig is still a mentor to Jim, and he was honored in September of 2013 by Bloom High School Athletic Department and his many grateful wrestlers, including Jim Woods.

“Coach McMahan found out I held no titles, but he knew I still had some success, and my reputation as a hard worker stood out. Coach McMahan found a scholarship, and the next thing



Jim with his two national champ trophies and his Gorriaran Trophy



I knew, I was at WIU playing football and wrestling,” he laughed.

Woods played football through his senior year at Western, but it was in the sport of wrestling where he made his mark . . . his work ethic and perseverance shining through.

“Wrestling with Coach McMahan, I found out I could be good at this sport. We weren't a really good team, so I was able to start right away,” Woods said. “We went to a tournament at the beginning of the year in Champaign; there were 16 schools there, and in the second meet of my college career, I beat a guy from Northwestern in the finals.”

Woods continued to excel in the sport his freshman year, making it all the way to nationals. Alas, that first year, he didn't place . . . and that gave him the determination to go all the way. He was the Division II runner-up his sophomore year, and that progressed to the number one seed in Division II his junior year. But that season ended with frustration when he got hurt, defaulted and forfeited, placing sixth.

“Going into my senior year, it was my goal to win the Division II tournament, and I was determined. I treated it like a business trip. I was methodical. I beat six other wrestlers at the D-II tournament, and I won 13-4 in the finals,” Woods recalled.

Clinching the Division II title qualified Woods for the opportunity to move up and wrestle for the Division I national championship and an opportunity to win both national titles in one year. There were 65 wrestlers and Woods was seeded eight and he said ‘he was okay with that.’”

"I had it in my makeup that I wasn't afraid to lose because I always remembered I wasn't the best. There was always a guy trying to beat me so I worked hard to keep my spot," he added. "My philosophy when it came to wrestling, really with anything, was that I was going to do the very best I could and live with the results."

The national competition, which took place at Iowa State from March 14-16, 1974, was tough, and it took Woods four matches to make it to the final match in his heavyweight class. He first beat a wrestler from Duke by pinning him in 3:55 in the first period. He followed that by pinning a wrestler from Brigham Young in 46 seconds in the first period. Then he was up against the number one seed, Charlie Getty from Penn State, who was also drafted in the second round of the NFL draft by the Kansas City Chiefs. In what Woods called a "muscle on muscle match" he pinned the number one seed in 2:38 seconds. Finally, in

the fourth round, the semi-final match, Woods was tested by a wrestler from Yale and had to go the distance for a 4-3 win. Woods was now headed for the national championship match and a chance to win two national championships in one year.

"The wrestler from Yale was my toughest opponent yet. I was better than him, but I just couldn't get away from him," Woods said.

Woods' opponent was out of the Big 10 and from Michigan. He was the number three seed and had just defeated the number two seed from Oklahoma State. If the Michigan wrestler won the match, Michigan would win the national championship. If the Michigan wrestler lost to Woods, then Oklahoma would win the national championship, so the pressure appeared to be on. But not for Woods.

"I was in a fearless state. Nerves were never an issue for me. And there was a record crowd there; the screaming was just intense. I was calm, and Coach

**WIU Athletics
Hall of Fame – 1988**

**Illinois Wrestling Coaches
& Officials Association
Hall of Fame – 2003**

**Wrestling Hall of Fame
Wall of Champs
(Stillwater, OK) – 1974**

**Professional and
Volunteer Awards**

**NAACP, Branch 4019 –
Outstanding Contribution
to Our Community – 2000**

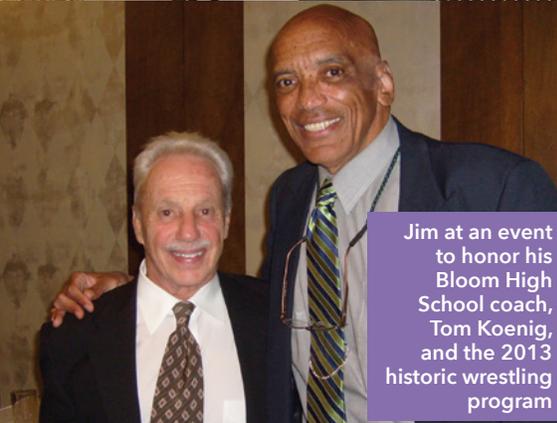
**Governor's Appointment
to the Iowa Foster Care
Review Board – 2002.**



Jim and fellow wrestler Jerry Strauman (WIU 2001 Hall of Fame Inductee) with Coach McMahan in March of 2019



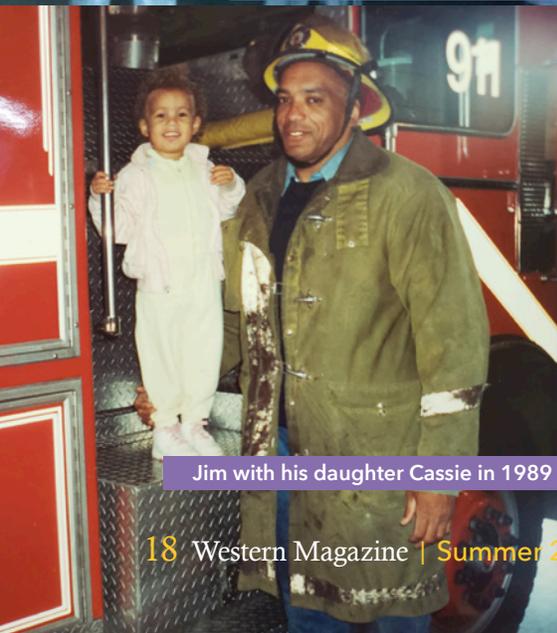
Jim and Cathy Woods visiting WIU in Spring 2019



Jim at an event to honor his Bloom High School coach, Tom Koenig, and the 2013 historic wrestling program



Jim and two fellow firefighters in a new Davenport Fire Station



Jim with his daughter Cassie in 1989

McMahan was surprised at how calm I really was,” Woods chuckled. “My record was 38-2 my senior year, losing to a silver medal Olympian. I had wrestled champs and got to this point by being determined and focused, so it really didn’t phase me.”

Woods recalled the championship match was very tight and also remembers looking at the clock with one minute left in the match and seeing that he was trailing 4-2. Woods then went on the attack and put the Michigan wrestler on his back twice in that final minute and won the NCAA Division I individual heavyweight national championship by a final score of 9-5.

“I picked him up and got him down on his back, but it was precarious, so I let him go. He charged me and took me down, but he was desperate, so I took advantage of that desperation,” he said. “After years of trying and determination, I ended my college wrestling career as the NCAA Wrestling champion. I also won the Gorriaran Trophy for the most falls in the least amount of time at the Nationals. I was happy to end my college career with a career record of 112-11.”

When the 6’5” heavyweight wrestler graduated from WIU, he had aspirations of joining the Olympic wrestling team, but pro football came calling first.

“Professional football coaches will also look at wrestlers, so I was offered a free agent tryout with the Washington Redskins. Remember, the Penn State wrestler was a draft pick for the Chiefs, and a scout from Washington was so impressed with me from the championship that they flew me out for a tryout,” he said. “They presented me with a contract and a bonus check, and said ‘sign here.’ But I knew if I signed, I couldn’t wrestle and then I couldn’t try for the Olympics, so I passed.”

Woods was a member of the USA World Cup team that toured the USSR, Germany and Poland. He enjoyed wrestling around the world, but an injury put a stop to his Olympic dreams. That also meant he was no longer a contender for the

NFL. But Woods, like in previous years, persevered.

Jim returned to WIU and was working as the assistant wrestling coach when he met Cathy Pratscher ’76 in the 1976 spring semester, who was finishing up her bachelor’s degree and had returned to WIU to begin studying for her master’s in political science.

“I saw him at a bar, and someone pointed out that he was a national wrestling champ, but that didn’t mean much to me,” Cathy laughed. “He was fascinating, and one of the smartest people I’d ever met. He was also really funny. It was an interesting time for inter-racial dating as it wasn’t considered the norm, but I didn’t let convention deter me.”

“We were trying to decide where to move once she was done with school and I looked at about three or four police departments, but then we saw a commercial that the Davenport (IA) Fire Department (DFD) was hiring,” Jim said. “I sent in my application, took the test and got hired in November 1977. Cathy was done with school in December that year, so we both headed to Davenport.”

Cathy and Jim married in 1982 and have two daughters, Sarah and Cassie, who both live in Davenport.

And just as Jim Woods made a name for himself in the world of college wrestling, he also made a name for himself as the first Black firefighter in the Quad Cities – and he remained the only person of color within a Quad Cities fire department for many years. Woods later became the highest ranking Black firefighter in the state of Iowa.

“The first day on the job I found out I was the first Black firefighter in the Quad Cities. In fact, they had an article on the front page of the Quad City Times about me. It just never crossed my mind, and the Fire Chief told me some people might not want me here, but it all worked out,” Woods recalled.

On his days off from the DFD, he worked as an emergency medical technician for Medic Ambulance in the Quad Cities. He also served as a

football and wrestling official in his off-time.

In the early 90s, he competed in the Regional Firefighters Fitness/Combat Challenge in Davenport. He trained for a number of months and said this was one of the harder physical activities that he had attempted.

Woods retired as a lieutenant in 2002. After a few months, Woods went to work as a para-educator for a local school district. He also went back to school, first as a pre-nursing major at Scott Community College. However, it was his work with high school students that changed the course of his second career. Woods went back to school and earned his degree in Elementary Education/Special Education at the University of Northern Iowa in December of 2008 at the age of 56. He worked as a teacher for Family Resources in the Muscatine (IA) School District and then ran the Muscatine School District's alternative school from 2009-14, until the school closed.

Today, Woods still works as a full time substitute teacher for Quad Cities-area schools as well as a Driver Education Instructor for the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

Cathy spent most of her career in human services with the Area Agency on Aging. Jim and Cathy both

delivered holiday meals to seniors for many years. Cathy still works as a senior meal site manager. Jim and Cathy are active members of the Democratic party and their church, where Cathy serves as a deacon and member of the church choir, and Jim is an elder and groupie for the church choir tours. They enjoy renovating and decorating their home.

"I was an anomaly as a Davenport firefighter as I had some different interests and came from the south side of Chicago. While my co-workers were hunting on weekends, Cathy and I were at Crate & Barrel," he laughed. "Cathy also dragged me into politics, especially all the Iowa Caucus activities. We worked on numerous presidential campaigns from 1980 on and we were present at both President Clinton's and President Obama's inaugurations. I married a progressive woman."

When the pair was asked about their time at WIU and what they recalled, they both thought that Macomb was a world away from where they came from, Jim from the south

"I wouldn't have had this same success anywhere else. I loved WIU from my first day."

suburbs of Chicago and Cathy from Hillside, a central suburb of Chicago right on the Eisenhower Expressway.

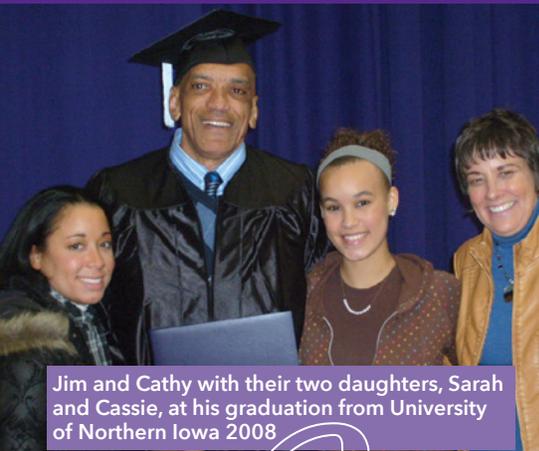
"I remember it was a very vibrant time at WIU. The Vietnam War was going on, the BSA (Black Student Association) was fervent on campus. There was just so much going on. I was excited about being

around so many different people," Jim said.

Cathy added that while Western wasn't a "fancy" school, she loved Western as much as Jim did from the moment she got there. She added that she still gets Christmas letters from one of her favorite political science professors.

"We have such great memories of our time at WIU and in Macomb. It's where we started," Cathy said.

"From the inner city of Chicago to the corn fields of Western Illinois, it was amazing. I loved Macomb. I met my wife here, and I was the first in my family to graduate from high school and the first to go to college," Woods said. "I wouldn't have had this same success anywhere else. I loved WIU from my first day." ●



Jim and Cathy with their two daughters, Sarah and Cassie, at his graduation from University of Northern Iowa 2008



Jim and Cathy family birthday party October 2019



Woods family Easter 2018

Jim Woods '74

W Margaret Wong's

Journey for Social Justice

For Western Illinois University Alumna Margaret Wong, her journey to a successful career began at an all-girls Catholic school in Hong Kong. Wong, a 1973 biological sciences graduate, is an attorney and the founder of Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC in Cleveland, OH.

Wong founded her firm in 1978 with one desk and no secretary, specializing in immigration law. Today, her practice includes 15 attorneys and 40 staff members with offices in seven major U.S. cities. She has helped thousands of people coming to the United States to become permanent residents, advance their education and pursue career opportunities. She began her law career in 1977 as chief legal counsel for the city of Buffalo, NY.

“Growing up in Hong Kong, which was still a British colony, I attended St. Paul’s Convent, and in those days, the Catholic schools were run by nuns, who were very strict. The school was divided

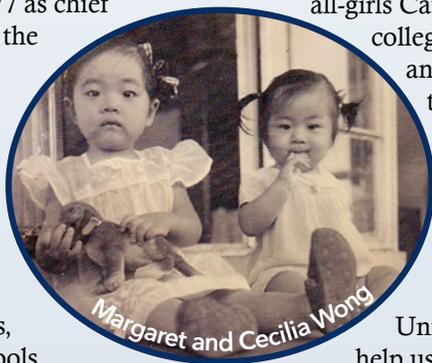
into the sciences or the arts – you would choose one or the other. I was always a science student. I did not want to be a housewife or a secretary,” Wong recalled. “My father was a newspaper publisher and my mother was a reporter. They were very hardworking and ensured that I lived a sheltered life. With love and courage, my mother sent me (with my sister Cecilia, 1973 WIU graduate) to the United States with two hundred dollars and four suitcases to begin a new life.”

From Hong Kong to Macomb

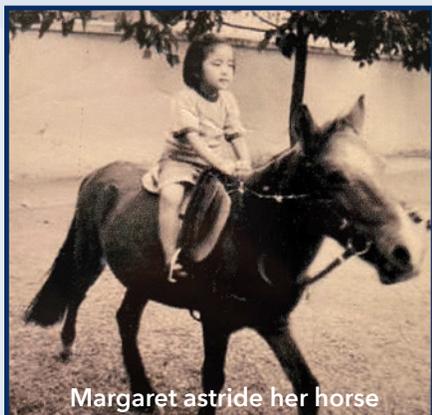
In 1969, the pair landed first at Ottumwa (IA) Heights College, an all-girls Catholic community college, where Margaret and Cecilia continued their education. When looking at schools to transfer to, the Wongs could only seek a four-year institution that offered scholarships.

“Western Illinois University was eager to help us and essentially raised us. It was my first year in co-ed dorms. Later, my sister and I got jobs as resident assistants and we had our own private room. It was so much fun. I had loving professors, which was very different from the nuns who had overseen my grade school and junior college education,” Margaret said. “Cecilia and I were incredibly focused in our days at WIU: sleep, study, eat, work.

“What we enjoyed most was visiting friends at their family homes. The dorms closed in the summer and holidays, so we were invited



Margaret and Cecilia Wong



Margaret astride her horse

to friends’ houses and farms. I saw a farm for the first time. We could not afford to fly back home to Hong Kong during breaks, so we relied on the kindness of classmates, and we were welcomed to many homes,” she added.

From Hong Kong, which Wong described as “wall-to-wall people everywhere you went, at all times of day, morning or night,” to first Iowa then rural Illinois was quite the change for the young Wong sisters.

“You see all of the travel brochures with the tall buildings, the ships and fishing boats in the harbor, high mountains, and the waterfront, but Hong Kong did not seem that glamorous growing up. At times we lived in the seedier areas of the city because that was all we could afford. The city did get much more dangerous in the 1960s, but I went outside anyways,” Wong said. “On the other hand, Macomb seemed practically empty when we first arrived. I had never had a car up to that point in my life—we never needed one because we would walk or take the tram. At

WIU, the students on my floor were very nice. They would take us to go to McDonald's, and I would go for the ride, but would not buy anything to eat or drink. I was just thrilled to ride in a car. My English was not the best, but I learned. I focused on the sciences when I was young, instead of language skills. But our host family in Macomb adored us, and they helped us adapt to American culture."

Wong's goal was to become a medical doctor, so she enrolled in numerous science-based courses at Western. However, after struggling in an organic chemistry class, she realized she needed to look at other career options because she refused to fail and wanted to graduate.

"Time was also a big factor in my decision not to become a doctor. Rather than spending another six years in school to earn a Ph.D., I could work after three years of law school," she added.

Law School & Beyond: New Cities, New Adventures

After graduating from Western, Wong headed to Buffalo for law school. There, she worked at the county attorney's office.

"I had a wonderful mentor at Buffalo City Hall. I was the 'dragon lady.' I would have to advise clients on the unpleasant matters. I was not very politically astute at the time, and I did not know to 'kiss up' to anyone," she explained. "I moved to Cleveland and got a job at a bank there, starting as a credit analyst in a management program. I believe I was their only

foreign-born attorney in the program. I was eventually fired, but I got over it fast. I appreciated that job because I learned numbers. Three-year, five-year, ten-year comparative figures tell a story and narrative."

Cleveland held a special appeal to Wong as her siblings had discovered the Ohio city while she was in law



Margaret in the office

school in Buffalo. Cleveland has been a well-developed Chinese community since the 1890s, so the Wongs settled in the suburbs, and Margaret began working with people from a variety of backgrounds.

"I developed strong ties with the Chinese community in the city.

They were never all of my business, but they were a solid foundation. I was fortunate that Glamour magazine called in the early 1980s as they wanted to interview me as a successful attorney. I had never heard of them before," she explained.

A Storied Career: Heartbreak & Inspiration

From the famous to the not-so-famous, Wong throws herself into her work to help individuals who want to make a better life for themselves, and in many cases, their families. After Tiananmen Square in China, she represented many Chinese clients, and after the housing downturn in 2007, she represented many people who were struggling for their livelihood. Eventually, Wong took over her friend Judge Margaret Chan's practice in New York City, while helping her with her campaign.

"Initially I was just babysitting the practice, but I eventually took it over. Our New York office grew out of this experience. Over the past 45-plus years, I have represented J-1 medical doctors, whose children go on to distinguished careers in this country.

I have built an asylum practice, helping those who have endured abuse and trafficking. I remember representing a couple, where the husband died tragically. They had two kids. Both kids interned at our firm, and I eventually went to both of their weddings. I am so proud of them," she remembered.

When then-Senator Barack Obama was running for president in 2008, it was very public at the time that his aunt and uncle were both in the U.S. without legal status. Wong first represented President Obama's aunt, which was "very hush-hush," she said.

"I had to go to a reverend's home to meet with her, and I didn't put two and two together initially. She was a wonderful human being who had gone through lots of hardship. It was through her that I met President Obama's uncle, and we were able to help him as well," Wong added. "Over the years, I have also represented various Cleveland baseball players. Most of my clients are salt of the earth. I pride myself on representing solid workers and families who come to America to survive."

A Typical Day

Wong is up 5:15 a.m. every day and arrives at the office by 6 a.m. Once there, she reads emails and newspapers, trying to read at least three newspapers a day: the local Plain Dealer, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times.

"It is so important to know what is going on in the world. My parents were both in the news industry: publisher and reporter," she added.

Before COVID-19 affected work and travel, Wong traveled four days per week to her various offices around the country. Many mornings were spent in airports so she could be at one of her offices at the start of the workday, returning home in the evenings on another flight.

When she's in the office, the first two hours, after catching up on the news, are spent reviewing cases, and then it's meeting with clients for the rest of the day.

"Pre-COVID, it was pretty typical that I would see or talk to 30-plus mostly-new clients per day. I love speaking with new clients, so that I

can discuss their personal story and figure out how I can best help them," Wong explained. "Once hired, I'll assign the case to a lawyer. We have teams specializing in employment-based immigration, family sponsorship, deportation, federal litigation and criminal defense."

Now that COVID-19 has thrown the world upside-down, Wong stressed she's even more determined than ever to review files and keep in touch with her firm's clients, assuring them that everything is okay, and their cases are proceeding well.

"I am a person of habits: I work six days per week; I love mornings; I have tried to do good and help people; it is not just about growing the business," she said.

A Warrior for Social Justice

"Pick your battles. Be smart. Be in the right place all the time, and work for justice."

— Margaret Wong

"We should support legal immigration. There are only two ways to grow the United States: make babies or through immigration. Immigrants contribute to the economy and to society as a whole, adding to the diversity of our country," Wong pointed out.

Throughout her career, Wong has helped the legal system improve its organizations, and has founded legal organizations and foundations supporting legal causes.

Wong said as her firm's work has evolved, she too has evolved. When she was a younger lawyer, her focus was on employment-based immigration, and her firm would represent the majority of the companies in Cleveland, including major companies. Through the years, her team has transitioned into focusing on litigation, deportation and family-based immigration. This transition was helped along by the



Margaret meets President Obama



Margaret and Magic Johnson



Margaret with Senator Hillary Clinton



Margaret with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

focus of the immigration system on enforcement, she noted.

“Immigration is good for all parties. It helps business owners obtain highly skilled workers, helps U.S. workers focus on their own careers, it brings hard-working people to start small businesses, work in agriculture, provide services, and to become professionals such as nurses and doctors,” Wong added.

Accolades, Awards, Activities & Advice

Over the years, Wong has won numerous awards and received recognition for her work as a top

immigration attorney, including the Social Diversity Award from Kent State, the highly coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor in May 1998, “Super Lawyer,” U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Lawyers in America,” Life Member of the Sixth Circuit and Eighth Judicial District of Ohio and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Trailblazer Award. Wong, the author of “The Immigrant’s Way,” has also been appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court as a charter member of the Continuing Legal Education Commission for Attorneys.

Throughout the years, Wong has contributed numerous gifts in support of WIU, including, with Cecilia, four awards to support the WIU RISE (Research Inspiring Student Excellence) Program in biology. She is a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board and received the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award in

2014. Wong also served as the 15th Annual WIU Centennial Honors College Pre-Law Symposium keynote speaker, and received WIU’s 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award.

She is a member of the Cleveland State University Foundation Board and the Tri-C Foundation Board, as well as the State of New York at Buffalo Foundation and the Law School Board. Wong is also an adjunct professor of immigration law at Case Western Reserve University Law School, and serves as president of the Federal Bar Association Cleveland Chapter.

“My primary advice to graduates is do

what you love. If you’re lucky, you learned diligence, hard work, love of achievement and the ability to adapt,” Wong said. “Keep reading and writing, stay informed—it can change who you are and defines you. I shine when faced with adversity. I pray you do, too.” ●

“Pick your battles. Be smart. Be in the right place all the time, and work for justice.”



Margaret with friends and family at the WIU graduation ceremony receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award



Margaret accepting an Honorary Ph.D.

Blast From the Past

By Kathy Nichols '89' MA '94, WIU Archives

The Sherman Hall Auditorium and the Ravine Theatre: Their place in Western's Performing Arts Tradition

Western has a rich performing arts tradition, dating from shortly after the normal school (or teacher training college) opened in 1902. And central to that tradition were Sherman Hall auditorium and the unique outdoor theater in the nearby ravine.

Early in the 1903-04 school year, Winifred Swartz organized the Choral Society. Western's first musical group, which had more than fifty members, gave concerts on campus and sang at assemblies and graduation ceremonies. Also during that school year and the subsequent one, debate and dramatics began.

With the encouragement of President Henninger, Alice Osden, Western's professor of "Expression and



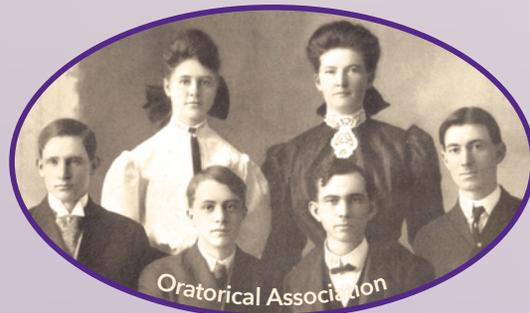
Physical Culture," formed the Oratorical Association, the first group to bring acclaim to Western. It held the school's first annual speaking contest during the winter of 1904, in the assembly room/gymnasium, of the main administration building, now Sherman Hall.

The winning student went on to represent Western at the state Inter-Normal Contest.

However, it was Osden's full-length production of the British comedy "Esmeralda," performed at the opera house in downtown Macomb, that truly brought public attention to Western as a source of culture and entertainment.

Finally, in the early part of 1906, Western's beautiful third-

floor auditorium was completed. It was dedicated in conjunction with the school's fourth graduation ceremony. A front-page item in the June 7, 1906, issue of the Macomb Journal states: "Notwithstanding the size of the room, the seating capacity was nearly occupied. The class marched in from the rear and took their places on the east side of the stage, while the faculty and Board of Trustees took their places on the west side. The chorus occupied seats in the front." Soon afterwards, the auditorium appeared on a popular postcard.





Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice

Beginning in 1906, the daily assembly (often called “chapel”) was held in the auditorium, rather than the gymnasium. As John Hallwas ’67 MA ’68 tells us in “First Century: A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University” (1999), “Attendance was mandatory, and students had assigned seats. Most of the programs were given by faculty members, but occasionally outside speakers were brought in, such as Lieutenant Governor L.Y. Sherman and Chicago Tribune cartoonist John T. McCutcheon.”

In following years, Western continued to hold oratorical contests in its fine new auditorium. In February 1907, drama teacher Susie B. Davis started the annual Senior Class play tradition with a production of Oliver Smith’s eighteenth-century comedy “She Stoops to Conquer,” which was highly acclaimed in the 1907 Sequel. After presenting a Russian play in 1908, Davis brought Shakespeare to Western, and to Macomb, for the first time with the 1909 Senior Class production of “Twelfth Night.”

In July of 1909, noted Shakespearean actor William Owen and his troupe performed a series of plays: “As You Like It,” outdoors, and “Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice,” in the auditorium. This was the first rendition of the great play in this city by an actor of note. According to the July 8, 1909 issue of the Western Courier, “Mr. Owen was greeted by a large and appreciative audience. His interpretation was a revelation to many here, who had never before seen the difficult character of Hamlet portrayed by an artist.”

Reporting on the 1910 Senior Class play, the Courier stated: “The ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’ given in the auditorium last Friday evening by members of the Senior class, assisted by academic students, was attended by a very large audience, every seat being sold. A large number from out of town were present, including former students, some of whom had come a

long way to see the class play.” Two days before the presentation of the play, the Macomb Journal printed a substantial summary of its plot. The day following the presentation, the newspaper reported: “Several costumes for the play had been secured from a costumer in Chicago, and that the draperies for the stage settings were furnished by J.W. Wyne & Bro. on the east side of the square and the lighting by the Macomb Electrical Construction Company.” The event was a community affair, with people from on and off campus working together and enjoying the result.

The success of those plays led to many more Shakespeare plays, directed by Susie B. Davis, being rapidly sold out—often in a single day. Together, Western and Macomb had developed a region-wide reputation for Shakespeare productions.

Davis left Western in the spring of 1914 to assume a position in the Northwestern University School of Oratory. Her move was certainly a loss to Western, and to the community of Macomb. Fortunately, in 1926, President Morgan hired Harold Schory to teach speech and drama, and he stayed for 34 years. While Schory was at Western, he coached the debate team, and as John Hallwas states in a December 22, 2018 article about Schory in the McDonough County Voice, under his leadership the school’s team developed a wide reputation for excellence. His greatest notoriety, however, came from his Christmas plays.

In 1927, Schory wrote and produced “The Modern Magi,” to relate the nativity story to problematic human culture. In “First Century,” Hallwas describes the production as: “A huge spectacle in blank verse and song that combined two dozen actors from the Green Door Dramatics Club (which Schory headed), two hundred students in the Men’s Glee Club and the Western Orchestra directed by Theresa Wild, and lavish costuming developed by Alberta Strome and her art students.”

It generated such a demand for productions like it that over the next three years Schory wrote and produced three more Christmas-themed dramas: “Emmanuel” (1928), “The Good Shepherd” (1929) and “The House of Ramah” (1930). In 1930, the Peoria Journal Star printed “Christmas Play Cycle of Dramatist at Macomb Attracts Wide Attention,” in which the article noted that other schools were showing interest in presenting the four Schory plays.

By 1931, there was a demand for subsequent productions of those plays at Western, too. As the Carthage Republican noted in 1931, “The annual Christmas Festival at Western Illinois State Teachers College has become so popular through Illinois and adjoining states . . . [due to] a presentation each year of one of the four plays of “The Christmas Cycle,” written and produced by Harold Schory.” And the article mentioned that those productions became so packed that many people couldn’t get seats in the auditorium for any of the three performances.

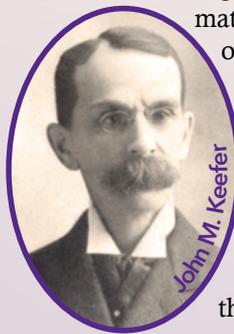
A 1933 Macomb Journal article also described the problem: “Over 3,000 persons packed the auditorium of Western Illinois State Teachers College for the three presentations of ‘The Good Shepherd,’ and hundreds of others had to be turned away due to lack of seating capacity.”

The auditorium in Sherman Hall continued to be used for assemblies until in the early 1950s when they were discontinued. For the next ten years it was the site of meetings and some programs. Eventually, however, its use for such gatherings declined, the seats were removed, and in 1974 the space became used for the Western Illinois Museum. In the fall of 2002, the museum was moved downtown, leaving the once elegant auditorium vacant. The WIU Foundation recently began restoring the murals on the auditorium walls.

The Ravine Theatre

While Susie B. Davis had been at Western, she also originated the idea of an open-air theatre in the ravine. The ravine on the east side of the campus had long been regarded as an ideal place to stroll or have a picnic. Because a small stream, sometimes called Normal Creek, flowed through it, two bridges were built, making the wooded area yet more picturesque. Appropriately, they were called “the long bridge” and the “short bridge.”

Normal School trustee and local businessman John M. Keefer, who had developed Lake Ruth, was largely responsible for the construction of the open-air theater in the ravine. The first performances there were given on June 30 and July 1, 1911, by a traveling



Shakespearean troupe called the Coburn Players, headed by veteran actor Charles Coburn. According to the May 11, 1911, issue of the Courier, the summer term was expected to be particularly notable, “because of the presence of the ‘Coburn Players’ from New York City. Weather permitting, this company will give three performances in the open air, two plays and the ‘Canterbury Pilgrims’ [based on Chaucer’s famous tales] ... These will be given the first night, June 30, followed by a matinee the afternoon of July 1, of ‘Much Ado About Nothing,’ and on the evening of July 1, Shakespeare’s greatest tragedy, ‘Macbeth.’”

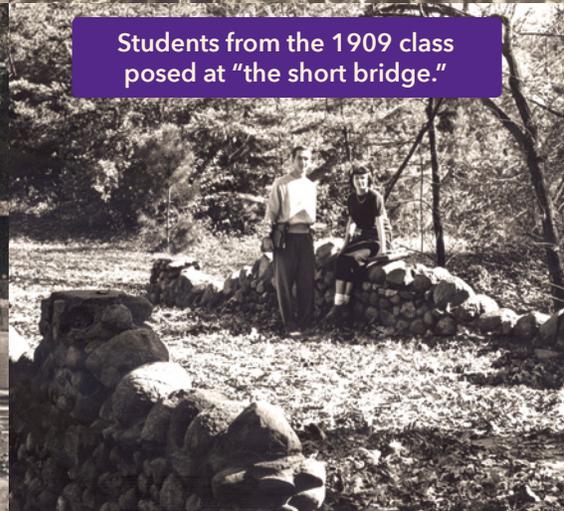
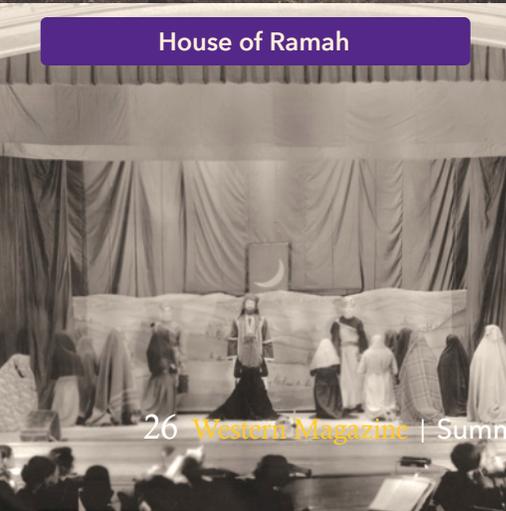
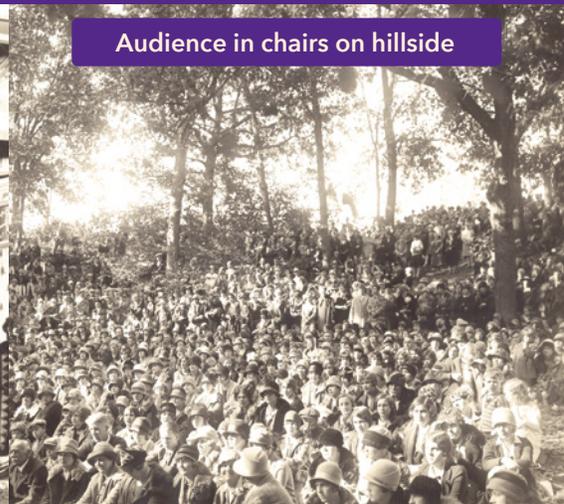
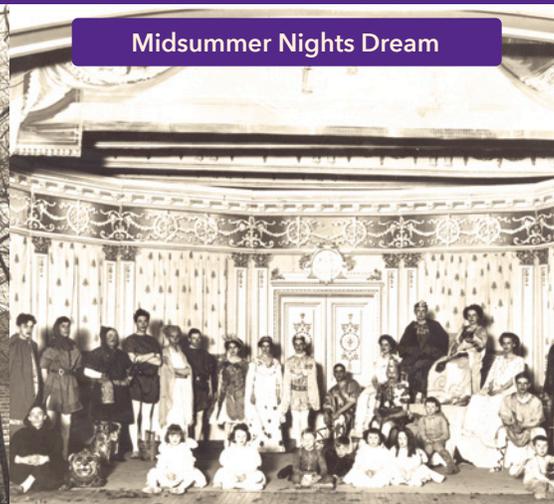
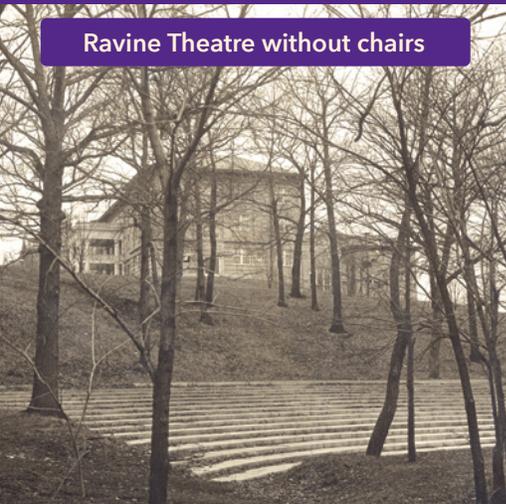
The article went on to state that the Coburn Players had been booked for performances at 40 of the most prominent colleges

and universities in the country, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Chicago, Illinois, Bryn Mawr, Radcliff and Smith, as well as a number of state normal schools in Missouri and Iowa, and in Macomb.

Because the reaction of members of the general public and the faculty, Keefer—who was then mayor of Macomb—led the Normal School Board of Trustees in providing funds to landscape the area and create cement tiers on which folding chairs could be placed.

The first student production in the ravine theatre was “The Pied Piper of Hamelin.” It was presented May 16, 1913, by the training school students as part of the annual Field Day program. About 400 children, all in costume, participated in the production, delighting their parents and others who sat in the folding chairs or on the hillside behind them.

Off and on over a period of 25 years, plays were performed in the



ravine, which could seat about 800 people. On October 18, 1960 a Courier article discussed plans for revitalizing the site for theatrical productions, barbecues, pep rallies and nature study.



In the summer of 1962, chair of the newly formed Department of Speech and Dramatic Art, Ronald C. Gee, in partnership with Alfred G. Brooks, revived interest in the ravine theatre—constructing a stage, lighting booth, and concession stand and producing “Room Service,” “Arms and the Man,” and “Alice in Wonderland.” That was the last time the ravine theatre was used, and a January 10, 1968 Courier article reported on the rerouting of the stream through a storm tile and the demolition of the concrete bleachers and steps, which as the item says, were in need of repair.

Fifty-two years later, the remnants of what was once the ravine theatre are still visible to live on and remain a unique facet of WIU’s history, and the Sherman Hall auditorium remains as a usable indoor site that still has much of is architectural beauty in tact.

Western now has the promise of a new performing arts center, to replace the old one.

Western has always had a remarkable performing arts tradition, which has had a huge impact on both the institution’s faculty and students and the public in western Illinois. The insight into the human experience that is fostered by the performing arts, as well as the sense of community and the social commitment that are derived from theatrical productions, can have an enormous cultural impact. Western Illinois University intends to maintain that important tradition. ●



Childrens’ performance in the ravine

STRAIGHT FROM A STUDEN



Raven Little

Junior Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration

After I graduated from high school, I thought my life was figured out. I was attending EMT school in the Fall, and from there I would move into the working world at the young age of 18. Little did I know that I was very wrong. Soon after I received my license and started looking for jobs, I realized I wanted to do more with my life and continue my education. I toured multiple universities around the country and nothing seemed to work for me. Then, right before giving up, my mother, who is a WIU alumna, suggested I look into Western. The entire time I was looking for a school outside of Illinois when the place that gave me the most comfort was only 80 miles away. Since the day I was accepted to Western, my life has changed in more ways than I could have ever guessed. Now, I am in multiple organizations, getting a degree in a career that I am so passionate about, and I met my “family.”



My journey at Western is coming to an end soon, and I think it is important to reflect on the path that has brought me to where I am. As most do, I changed my major after one semester, which I would say has been my best decision. I had always

perceived RPTA as the major for kids who enjoyed the outdoors or wanted to be a park ranger, but little did I know I would find my passion in one of the many minors.

Event Planning is such a fun thing to do, and I know that when I leave for my internship and get into the workforce, I will love my job. The department has always been so welcoming and great with advising me when I feel lost on my path. Many of my professors have spent time with me, making sure that I understand coursework and fulfill my necessary requirements to succeed. Dr. Robinett has been one of the most influential

teachers I have had at WIU, he has inspired me to be the best I can be and really take hold of my passions.

Without the University and the guidance of my teachers I would not know about the great programming opportunities on campus and within the Macomb community. While studying at Western, I have been able to work with the United Way and Build a Better Block. Having these experiences will definitely benefit my future.

Possibly my favorite thing to talk about are the organizations I am involved in on campus. I am currently in four organizations: Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, University Union Board, Homecoming Committee and Panhellenic Council. I am also a Summer Orientation Leader. All of these things have increased the value of my Western experience dramatically. I have had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people, go to leadership conferences and conventions and put on exciting



events that all students have been able to enjoy. Tri Sigma has been a blessing in my life; I have been able to join a true family of amazing women who are so motivated. I hold the Community Service position in my chapter, which is perfect due to my love for serving the community and the RPTA connections I have in Macomb. University Union Board has allowed me to execute all of my ideas at WIU within the event planning world, as well as meet students and go to National Association for Campus Activities Mid America Conference. Being a Homecoming Co-Director has been one of the best experiences for me and I love being able to coordinate one of the biggest traditions on campus. Overall, everything that I have participated in has taught me a valuable lesson that will carry with me forever.

A special experience and memory that will stay with me forever was the opportunity to travel to Alicante, Spain and study abroad. This was a life-changing experience that helped to shape me into a better person with knowledge of how the world really looks. It felt like I was in a movie. I was walking the streets of Spain, meeting students and travelers from all over the world, from places I didn't even know existed. I was blessed to be able to travel to other European countries and cities, go on field trips and learn the history of these magnificent places. Most importantly, I was

able to meet my best friend Kaylee. She is from Wisconsin, and we knew it was meant to be when we realized that although we met 5,000 miles away we would be able to continue our friendship two hours away in the States.

Western has been a journey of a lifetime. I am so grateful for the memories that I will take with me. Whether it is studying in our beautiful library every day for hours, cheering on the football team, walking

“ BLEEDING PURPLE AND GOLD NEVER FELT SO GOOD. ”

in the Homecoming parade or the day that I moved into Corbin Olson. I have received an education that will allow me to leave secure and confident in my future. If you asked me in 2018 how my life was going to end up, I would have never guessed I would be where I am today. You can go into school looking for

parties, relationships and temporary good times, or you can choose to immerse yourself into the experience of education and tradition. Bleeding purple and gold never felt so good. ●





LEATHERNECK ATHLETICS

Courtesy of Monyae Williamson,
Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Communications

JETER TABBED TO RUN SHIP AT WIU



Rob Jeter
Head Coach

Rob Jeter will serve as the 21st head men's basketball coach in program history, carrying with him 25 years of coaching experience and seven NCAA Tournament appearances.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Rob as our next head men's basketball coach," said Danielle Surprenant, athletics director. "Rob brings so much experience with him. He has seen success as both a head coach and assistant, and his drive and passion for the game are contagious. His recruiting ties, especially in the Midwest, and his vision and direction for the program were exactly what we were looking for. I'm ecstatic to see where he will lead our men's basketball program."

At the helm of his own program, Jeter was a three-time coach of the year. Eleven seasons at Milwaukee captured five seasons with 20 or more wins, Coach of the Year honors from the Horizon League (2011) and the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (2006,2011), and two NCAA Tournament berths. His first Panther squad registered a first-round victory over the University of Oklahoma in the 2006 NCAA Tournament.

Jeter's most recent trip to the NAAs occurred in 2019 as an assistant at Minnesota. The Gophers ended their season in the second round but earned their first tournament win in six years to go alongside another 20-win season (22-14). ●

FALL SPORTS CONFERENCE UPDATES

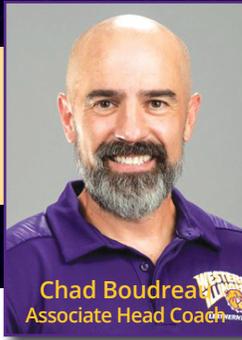


The Missouri Valley Football Conference has voted to move the conference schedule to Spring and will play an eight game schedule. Read more at bit.ly/32b9Fdn.



The Summit League President's Council unanimously voted to postpone fall sports to the spring of 2021. Read more at bit.ly/32bwWvs.

JETER ANNOUNCES COACHING STAFF



Western Illinois University head men's basketball Coach Rob Jeter recently announced his coaching staff, welcoming three new faces to Macomb: Chad Boudreau, Kyle Heikkinen, and Nick Irvin.

Boudreau will serve as the Leathernecks' associate head coach.

"When putting together a staff, I had a few key things in mind," said Jeter. "I wanted an experienced staff with head coaching experience, high-character and high-energy coaches with a passion for recruiting and development, and a group who would work well together. I believe I've accomplished each of those things with these hires."

Western's new associate head coach was most recently the head men's basketball coach at Highland Community College in Freeport, IL.

Boudreau led the Cougars to three consecutive Arrowhead Conference titles with undefeated conference marks in 2019 and 2020, and he earned Arrowhead Conference Coach of the Year honors all three seasons of his Highland tenure. Boudreau was also named NJCAA Region IV Coach of the Year in 2018 and 2020.

He and Jeter join forces once again, after sharing history at the University of Milwaukee, where the former was an assistant on Jeter's staff from 2005-16. Boudreau helped Milwaukee to Horizon League championships in 2006, 2011 and 2014, and the Panthers qualified for six postseason tournaments during the 11-year stretch.

"It feels good to be working together again with Chad. We have such a successful history together, and it was very important Chad joined me here at Western," said Jeter. "He has such a love and passion for helping

others. Chad is not only a great recruiter, but he has also proven to be an outstanding head coach. We spent 11 years together at Milwaukee and he was instrumental in bringing in high-level talent that ultimately produced championships and NCAA appearances. I'm excited to be reunited with Chad and his family."

Before joining the Leatherneck family, Heikkinen was a member of Boudreau's staff at Highland. For three seasons, he was responsible for recruiting, opponent scouting, film breakdown, academic monitoring, program fundraising, team travel coordination and the organization and administration of summer basketball camps.

Highland won the NJCAA District 10 title in 2018 as well as the Region IV championship in 2018 and 2020, and 13 student-athletes attained NCAA Division I scholarships under the pair's tutelage.

Heikkinen's collegiate coaching journey began at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (2013-17), where he assisted the team to the 2014 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Championship. While there, Wisconsin-Whitewater posted a 90-25 record, and Heikkinen helped coach and develop the 2015 WIAC Player of the Year and two NCAA All-Americans.

"Kyle has been a successful coach at the high school and college level," said Jeter. "He was a big part of the success at Highland. Just like myself, he started coaching at the Division III level, and I respect that. He is very familiar with my style and coaching philosophies, which is very important. Kyle has an outstanding work ethic, is very detailed and has a passion for

recruiting. In getting to know Kyle, it was very evident that he really cares for the student-athletes and works hard to help them become successful. Kyle is a great fit for the Leatherneck family!"

The 2020 Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year, Irvin heads to WIU after running one of the most successful boys' basketball programs in Illinois history. The Chicago native compiled an impressive 301-70 record over 12 seasons as the head coach at Morgan Park.

He led the Mustangs to two separate, back-to-back IHSA Class 3A state title runs in 2013-2014 and 2017-18, and Morgan Park has won at least 20 games in all 12 seasons Irvin has been at the helm, including 10 straight regional crowns.

At Morgan Park, Irvin mentored numerous all-state selections, including Ayo Dosunmu and Adam Miller. Current Leatherneck Cam Burrell was a member of the 2017 and 2018 Morgan Park state championship teams.

Irvin is part of Chicago basketball royalty as his late father, Mac, sponsored one of the most recognizable AAU programs in the nation, the Mac Irvin Fire.

"Nick Irvin checks those boxes. Nick is a winner. He's an energetic, successful head coach who has proven to develop high-level student-athletes," added Jeter. "I have a ton of respect for Nick and the Irvin family. For such a big city, the Chicago basketball community is tight-knit, and the Irvins have strong ties. Coming back to Chicago and giving one of our own an opportunity was a priority for me, and I'm excited to have Nick join us at Western!" ●

**"IF YOU WANT TO CLIMB
THE LADDER, YOU HAVE TO
DEVELOP YOUR GAME."**



BRANDON GILBECK

Brandon Gilbeck is a year removed from collegiate basketball and is still very much in love with the game.

He has hooped all over, from prep play in Wisconsin to a four-year career with the Western Illinois University men's basketball team. The young journey has included: a stint with the Denver Nuggets' 2019 summer league roster; a stop in the Mall of America, no shopping involved, to participate in the Dos Equis 3X3U National Championship; and, more recently, across the Atlantic to Denmark, where he enjoyed his rookie season with Horsens IC.

Gilbeck is a professional basketball player, and that's a statement not lost on him, though the transition took a little while to adjust.

"I've wanted to be a professional basketball player my whole life. It's been a lifelong dream, but it wasn't what I thought it would be," he said. "You think when you cross the finish line that there will be fireworks or a big ah-ha moment, but once you reach one milestone or point in your career, there are so many more ahead of you, and you just look forward to those.

"Playing professionally has been a lifelong dream, and I plan to keep doing this as long as I can."

Preseason training began in August of 2019, a few months ahead of the season, and Gilbeck was grateful for the adjustment period and for fellow rookies who were also experiencing European basketball for the first time.

Together, they faced new coaches, new teammates and a new training regimen, all while learning how to adapt in a new country.

"We leaned on each other a ton in the first couple of weeks. It seemed

like we went everywhere together. There were three Americans [including Gilbeck], and it was also their first time playing overseas. We traveled everywhere together, just looking out for each other. When we got a little comfortable, it was like 'Alright. Let's go our separate ways,'" he laughed.

With Horsens, season prep included soccer drills—imagine a 7-footer doing blindfolded cone exercises—and when he needed a small piece of home, the golden arches helped fill the void.

"They had us do some pretty wild stuff, stuff I've never done before, and they were a lot harder than I thought they would be. My body wasn't ready for that.

"There was a McDonald's across the street from our apartment, so when we first got there, we made multiple visits. It's what you know and recognize, but the menu was completely different. You look for greasy food, and it was there, but there were a lot more healthier options. They love burgers in Denmark, but the food really wasn't that different from what I'm used to in the Midwest. A lot of meat and potatoes."

Danish cuisine wasn't out of the ordinary for Gilbeck, and neither was the language as most Danes speak English. He arrived not knowing a lick of Danish but picked up a few lines along the way to assist in routine practices like grocery shopping. Coming from a small town—Spring Green, WI, which lists a population of 1,637—the opportunity to experience a different culture was enticing.

"When you're in the Midwest area, you don't experience a lot of different cultures. Over there, you really get a bigger picture. The world isn't just

Macomb, Illinois or little Wisconsin. I encourage everyone to go overseas or take a trip. I really enjoyed my time."

The Western faithful remember Gilbeck as the third player in Summit League history to be named Defensive Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons (2018-19). He led all NCAA Division I athletes with 3.42 blocks per game during the 2018-19 season, and also sits atop Western's career and single-season block records with 285 and 106, respectively.

"At the lower levels, you can get away with being a one-role specialist. My main thing was blocking shots in college, but if you want to climb the ladder, you have to develop your game. For me, that meant becoming more mobile as a big man, working on stretching the floor, and shooting the outside jumper."

His first pro season with Horsens saw him average 9.4 points, 6.7 rebounds, and a league-leading 2.9 blocks. The team ranked third in BasketLigaen standings with an overall record of 18-5 before the season was cut short due to COVID-19.

Eurobasket.com made Gilbeck a three-time Defensive Player of the Year when it released its All-Danish Ligaen Awards in March, and the list also saw him picked as an honorable mention.

He's now stateside prepping for a 2020-21 season with Latina Basket in Italy.

"There are many levels to being a professional. Obviously, the top is the NBA, and I hope to get the shot, but you just want to keep moving up. My goal is to keep moving up," Gilbeck said. ●

Class Notes

Larry Foster '59, Hillsborough, CA, is a retired dean, works part time at Stanford University and served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Phil Bradsahw '61, Griggsville, has published a memoir, *Your Food—My Adventure: One Farmer's Journey to Feed the World.*"

John Newberg '71, Mesa, AZ, is retired.

Christine Zelm '71, Santa Rosa Beach, CA, is a retired sr. VP of sales for Artistic Studios LTD LLC.

Sandra Stoit MS-ED '72 ED SP '81, Rock Island, is retired from Rock Island School Dist. # 41.

Cynthia Thompson Blizewski '73, Charlotte, NC, has retired after a 43-year career in child protective services in IL, Ontario, and NC.

Paul Bolhous, Buckeye, AZ, is a retired sales manager.

Francis Bomher '73 MBA '75, Clarendon Hills, is retired.

Robert Weems, Jr. '73, Wichita, KS, was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who.

Christine Leider Bohlmann '74, Mundelein, is retired from Lake Zurich Schools.

Christine Cramer '74, Canon City, CO, is retired from 7-Eleven, Inc.

Cynthia Kane Marciniak '74 MA '84, Darien, is retired from teaching at CCSD # 181 in Hinsdale.

Stan McGahey '74 MS '82, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is the chair and professor of tourism and hospitality management for American University of Phnom Penh.

Gene Piasecki '75, Newcastle, WA, is retired after working 40 years at Nestle USA in sales and strategic planning.

Rick Van Etten '75 MA '76, Des Moines, IA, is retired after 20 years as editor of Gun Dog magazine, and has published his first novel, *Killer in the Woods.*

Robert Bestvina '76, Indianapolis, IN, is an implementation consultant for McKesson Corp. in Irving, TX, and recently published a memoir, *Boomer, Adventures of a Not-So-Typical Baby Boomer.*

Linda Augsburg Carlow '76, Alvarado, TX, has published a time-travel romance called *Seth's Door.*

Elizabeth Leimbach Ehrhardt '76, Layton, UT, is the President of Senior Charity Care Foundation and was named the AARP Purpose Prize Fellow.

Niles "Bucky" Fleege '76, Placerville, CA, is the owner of Bookshelf Wines LLC in Pilot Hill.

Garrett Pogue 76 MS-ED '78 MA '84, Ft. Wayne, IN, is retired.

Pat Rowe Bolhous '77 MS-ED '85, Buckeye, AZ, is retired from teaching.

Dan Stencil MS '77, Clarkston, MI, has been selected to join the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

Tom Webb '77, Lisle, is plant manager at The Bevolution Group.

Jim Davis '78, Lake Geneva, WI, is retired from American Airlines as Boeing 777 Captain after 35 years.

Patricia Hughes '78, Lady Lake, FL, is part time staff asst. at Lady Lake Police Dept.

William Pfalzgraf '78, LaSalle, has retired from being Director of Court Services for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of IL.

Carin Horne Stutz '78, Chicago, is a member of the WIU Board of Trustees and the CEO at Native Foods.

Jill Hardin Witts '78, St. Louis, MO, is retired from Environmental Operations, Inc.

Geoffrey Jones '79, Plainfield, is retired.

Duane Lasley '79, Duluth, MN, is retired.

Jean Kilpatrick Ruebner '79 MS-ED '98, Galesburg, is retired from Galesburg CUSD # 205 after teaching elementary school for 40 years.

Artie Travis '79 MA '82, Frostburg, MD, is VP of student affairs at Frostburg State University.

Richard Doria MS '80, Chandler, AZ, competed in the Estonia National Open Field championships and brought home the gold medal for Master men, log bow with wood arrows. He also competed in the N. America Continent Field Archery Championships and brought home the gold medal for Masters 65+, long bow with wood arrows.

Chuck DeYong '81, Davenport, IA, is retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Nancy Cross '82, Marshalltown, IA, is the art teacher at Franklin & Rogers Elementary Schools for Marshalltown Community School Dist.

Patrice Henebry '82, Boynton Beach, FL, is a sr. communications manager at Office Depot in Boca Raton.

Michael Elwood '83, Chicago, is a real estate broker at Re/Max 1st Service in Orland Park.

Stephen Ramseyer '83, Morton Grove, is retired from teaching and coaching at Niles West High School.

Syed Husman Syed Hussain '83 MA '85, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is the executive director at SVTT Resources Sdn Bhd in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Marlyn Henderson Llorens '84, Des Plaines, was recognized by the International Association of Women as a 2019-2020 Influencer.

Thank You, front-line workers

Western Illinois University salutes the courageous efforts of all members of our Leatherneck family who are front-line workers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for all you do and our thoughts are with you.



1. More than 50 Alumni & Friends joined us in Ft. Myers last February!

2., 3. & 4. Interim President Abraham & Foundation Executive Officer Bainter '79 MS '83 with Alumni & Friends in Scottsdale!

5. Great turnout for our Seattle Alumni & Friends event!

David Young '84, Kirksville, MO, is a CHRO/regional director for the Premier Specialty Network.

Tom Bosley '85 MS '93, Rockford, was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Eureka College.

Sue Davis '85, Atlanta, GA, is the VP corporate labor relations at United Parcel Service.

Thomas Ruby '87 MS '93, Bartlesville, OK, is a software engineer for ABB.

Mark Urban '87, Willow Springs, is an assoc. partner at Korn Ferry.

Kevin Reavis '88, Cuba, is retired from Canton Union School Dist. # 66.

Nisa Sirimongkolkasem MA '88, Rajburana, Bangkok, Thailand, is an accounting and finance dept. manager for Bangkok Synthetics Co. Ltd.

Tony Brown '89, Rantoul, received the Police Chief Certification.

Leah Hall Dorothy MS '89, Adair Village, OR, is the President of NIRSA, Campus Recreation Assoc. for higher education and is the executive director of recreational sports at Oregon State University.

Thomas Gesell '89, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is a shift manager at Casino Woodbine.

Inkawan Yusi MBA '89, Jakarta, Indonesia, is the general manager retail banking at Bank Muscat.

Mitch Lutzke '90, Williamston, MI, wrote a book titled, *The Page Fence Giants: A History of Black Baseball's Pioneering Champions* and won a 2019 Michigan Notable Book Award by the Library of Michigan.

Angela Guarin Anderson '91 MA '93, Conroe, TX, is an audiologist at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic in Houston.

Valarie Humphrey '91, Oswego, is self-employed as an educators' educator/professional speaker.

Eric Kolb MS '91, Grapevine, TX, is a production director at ClubCorp Publications.

Paige Priore Slater '91, Buckeye, AZ, is a corporate travel counselor for American Express.

Lori York Sutton '91 MA '93, Lomax, is the transit director for McDonough County Public Transportation.

Cindy Wood Twidwell '91 MS '94, Plymouth, is a teacher at Southeastern CUSD # 337.

Wendy Ralston Mattison '92, Prospect Hts., was awarded the Bishops Quarter Award.

Robert Toniolo '92, Nashville, TN, is a sr. manager tax lead at Bridgestone.

John Anderskow '93, Mt. Prospect, is a quality control analyst for the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development.

Eric Werden '93, Morris, is a deputy chief for the Grundy County Sheriff's Dept.

Margaarita Raya Mojica '94 MS-ED '99 Moline, is a bilingual co-teacher and academic program coordinator for East Moline School Dist. and received the 2020 IL Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching.

Bryan Hart '95, Albion, was promoted to Investigator Commander – Captain for the IL Secretary of State Police.

Mona Hicks MS '95, St. Louis, MO, has been appointed Stanford's sr. associate vice provost and dean of students.

Mike "Pooch" Perniciaro MS '95, Terre Haute, IN, is the head softball coach at Indiana State University.

Dan Tripp '95, Hanover Park, is the warehouse supervisor for Apollo Aerospace Components.

Susan Wilson Turner '95, Seattle, WA, is the founder / coach at Inherent Knowledge.

Benjamin Boeke '96, Oskaloosa, IA, is an adjunct instructor at William Penn University.

Charles Clark '96 MA '98, Nashville, TN, is the associate VP of planning and assessment at Nashville State Community College.

Patrice Mrazek Johannsen MS-ED '96, Woodridge, is retired.

Stephane Ziegler Parker MS-ED '96, Silvis, is a licensed clinical professional with specialties in complex trauma and chronic pain management at Embrace Change Counseling, LLC. in Moline.

Brian Sloss MS '96, Stevens Point, WI, is the dean of outreach, extension, and extramural funds for the University of WI – Stevens Point.

Curtis Stevenson '96, Frankfort, IN, is retired.

Suzanne Kearney Summers '96, Knoxville, TN, is the head cook at Knox County Schools.

Tige Jones '97, Quincy, is the station manager of KHQA for the Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Maurice Smith MS '97, N. Chesterfield, VA, is the author of a children's book, *Uncle Charles and Me*.

Mary Peddle Bielecki '98, Mt. Prospect, is a teacher at St. Raymond School.

Andy Bullock MS-ED '98, Kewanee, is the asst. principal at Moline High School – Coolidge Campus.



Larry Estep '98, Sahuarita, AZ, is a mine operations portfolio manager at Hexagon Mining.

Christina Sparks Hill '98, Dallas, TX, is a PIP/MPC claims adjuster for State Farm.

Vannie Keever, Jr., '98, Gladstone, is VP of information technology at XPAC in Moline.

Gavin Tanner '98, Gilbert, AZ, is the motor officer and field training officer for the City of Mesa as well as lead instructor for impaired driving and drug recognition expert instructor at the Mesa Police Dept. Academy.

Michael Carroll '99, Sitka, AK, is an aeromedical pilot at Aero Air LLC.

Tiffany Selinko Howard '00 MBA '02, Carpentersville, is a purchasing manager at Canon.

Nicholas Lokshin '00, Minneapolis, MN, is a sr. manager/ management consulting for Accenture.

Andrew Podlasik MS '00, Green Bay, WI, is a staff accountant for the Green Bay Packers.

Jason Vigh '00, O'Fallon, MO, is a cybersecurity manager at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

Andria Hartman Baumgartner MS '01, Oswego, is a speech pathologist for Naperville # 203.

Jennifer Deutsche Gargas '01, Santa Maria, CA, is the asst. store manager at Marshall's in Arroyo Grande.

Michael Renne '01, Jamestown, NC, is a technology trainer at NC A&T University.

John Turnbull '01, Springfield, is a financial advisor at Edward Jones.

Matthew Clemens '02, Valparaiso, IN, is a PTS DCX Marketing Specialist for Regal Beloit.

Jeffrey Froman '02, Mission, KS, is an IMAT situation unit leader for FEMA Region 7 in Kansas City, MO.

Nichole Westerlund Hancock '02, Lutz, FL, is VP at HCA-Brandon Regional Hospital in Brandon.

Erik Portiera '02, Streamwood, is the concessions manager at Allstate Arena.

Heather Cushing Schmitz '02, Palatine, is a technical expert for the Social Security Administration.

Rebecca Robinson Borowski '03, Bellingham, WA, is an asst. professor of mathematics education at Western Washington University.

Hal DeLaRosby MS '03, Woodbury, MN, is the director of student services at the University of Minnesota.

Abbey Lesko-Youngberg '03 MA '07, Clinton, is a special education teacher for CUSD # 15.

Ashley Bishop Cushman '04 MS '06, Wolcott, CT, is the manager at ESPN in Bristol.

Nicole Fogel Ebersole '04, Milledgeville, is an adult probation officer at Ogle County Probation in Oregon.

Patricia Ruh '04, Joliet, is the head of people, US for Vitality Group in Chicago.

Sarah Sharifi '04, San Francisco, CA, is a sr. content strategist at SurveyMonkey.

Ami Meisner Vanderhoof '04, Sugar Grove, is the sr. marketing manager at Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants in Downers Grove.

Chrissy Page Wainwright '04, Springdale, AR, has been appointed President of the Plone Foundation for 2020.

Ginny Rust Walsh '04, Franklin, is a geologist for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mark Moses '05, Melbourne, FL, is a sports talk show host of The Mark Moses Show at WLZR.

Ceola Oware '05, Chicago, is the principal/owner of Oware Consulting and was selected on behalf of the IL Institute of Technology as the recipient of the 2019 American Society for Public Administration Model Alumna.

Bret Rocchietti '05, Griffith, IN, is a foreman at Hill Mechanical Group.

Michelle Roscoe Spatafora '05, Yorkville, is a teacher at Mendota Dist. # 289.

Sara Vento June '06, Lombard, is a SEO specialist at Green Line Digital.

Ray Richmond MBA '06, St. Charles, MO, is a safety and compliance specialist at SCF Marine in St. Louis.

Erika Ward '06, Ottawa, is a pre-kindergarten teacher for DePue Unit School Dist. # 103.

Susan Bentley '07, Morrison, is the president and CEO of Advantage One Credit Union.

Tracy Lyons Darrah '07, Galesburg, is a medical laboratory technician I at OSF St. Mary's Medical Center.

Ashley Eberle '07, Burlingame, CA, is the asst. dean of career education and assoc. director of career communities at Stanford University.

Erik Hughs '07, Knoxville, is a PE teacher and basketball coach at Knoxville High School.

Ashley Liby Kronzer '07, Laurel, MD, is a teacher at Howard County Public Schools.

Morgan Smith Newey '07, Plainfield, is the patient coordinator at Midwest Sports Medicine Institute.

Alyssa Capillo Rojo '07, Skokie, is an RN research analyst for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Jamie Sprovach '07, London, UK, is a video producer for PsychoSaints and produced the music video *Thank You for The Good Times* for the bank Vinyl Theatre, which won the 2019 Silver State Film Festival Audience Award for Best Short Animation.

Megan Smith Swanson '07, Salem, WI, works in inside sales at Bar Code Integrators, Inc. in Libertyville.

Sarah Hays Thompson '07, Edwardsville, is a teacher at Collinsville Unit # 10 School Dist.

Lisa Biernat Hughs '08 MA '13, Knoxville, is the asst. director of community and sr. services for KCCDD, Inc. in Galesburg.

Reid Kelso '08 '16, Roseville, is a PE teacher and athletic director for Abingdon-Avon High School.

James Kveton '08, Petersburg, is the valuation services manager for Business Appraisal Services in Naperville.

Emma Martens '08, Chicago, is the restaurant manager at The Signature Room.

Kim Parker '08 MBA '11, Macomb, was named Minor League Baseball's 2019 Rawlings Woman Executive of the Year.

Brian Ramsey '08, Shorewood, is a strategy and programs advisor at SoCha LLC.

Laci Smith '08, Phoenix, AZ, is the manager of emerging and digital products at Discover Financial Services.

Derick Stoullil MS '08, Cedar Falls, IA, is the asst. director of annual giving programs at University of Northern Iowa.

Brandon Dykema '09, Knoxville, TN, is a staff operations specialist at Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Jessica Sparks Hollensteiner '09, Quincy, is a police officer for the Quincy Police Dept.



(309) 298-1914

Dreyan Spizadlin Hughes '09, Pekin, is a clinical laboratory scientist at OS Healthcare in Peoria.

Ryan Kedzior '09, Peoria, is the parts information coordinator at Caterpillar, Inc.

Koryne Master LaMont '09, Spring Grove, is a sr. business operations analyst at Baxter.

Meghan Trygar Lange '09, Aurora, is an 8th grade ELA teacher for School Dist. # 88 at Roosevelt Middle School in Bellwood.

Elyse Simcock Minhas '09, Aurora, is a learning behavior specialist for Naperville CUSD # 203.

Kevin Moon '09, Savannah, GA, is a geologist for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Jessica Ball Mueller '09 MS '11, Chicago, is the assoc. director of alumni engagement at Roosevelt University.

Kristin Fiebrandt Robinson, Glen Ellyn, is a music teacher at Hinsdale School Dist. # 181.

Coreen Taylor '09, Mt. Pulaski, is a registered nurse at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Karen Terry '09, Macomb, is a mental health counselor at N. Central Behavioral Health Systems.

Shawn Wilber Van Patten '09, Albuquerque, MN, is a teacher at Albuquerque Public Schools.

Brandi Watkins Warner '09, Macomb, is a behavioral health therapist at N. Central Behavioral Health Systems.

Kaushik Devulapalli MS '10, Ashburn, VA, is a technical solution manager at Accenture LLP.

Jeremy Homolka '10 MS '12, Kingston NH, is the student conduct coordinator at the University of New Hampshire.

Caitlin Lohman Berkley '11, Cypress, TX, is the practice manager at Shady Brook Animal Hospital in Magnolia.

Jacob Crase MS-ED '11, Cuba City, WI, is the principal at Platteville High School.

Laura Palkoner MS-ED '11, Oakland, TN, is a 6th and 7th grade honors science and social studies teacher at Fayette County Schools.

Robert Shelby MS '11, Owensville, IN, is the chief diversity officer at University of Evansville.

Rachel Mies Boyd '12, Burlington, IA, is a financial aid counselor at Iowa Wesleyan University.

Morgon Carlson '12, Aurora, is a deputy sheriff for the DuPage County Sheriff's office in Wheaton.

Jordan Merritt '12, Carthage, earned his Doctor of Chiropractic at Logan University at Chesterfield, MO, and set up his own private practice in Carthage called Merritt Family Chiropractic.

Ashley Dierks Czernecki '13, Chicago, is a talent acquisition specialist at James Hardie Building Products Inc.

Kooten Johnson '13, Macomb, is the Monmouth College men's soccer coach and was named the league's Coach of the Year honor.

Travis Terhaar '13, Lafayette, IN, is an agriculture instructor at Western Boone School Corp. in Thorntown.

Steven Blue '14, Pleasant Prairie, WI, is a clinical program development study management associate at AbbVie.

Rose Bohnenkamp '14, Burlington, IA is a bereavement counselor at Every Step Hospice in Mt. Pleasant.

Bryan Brouder '14, Chicago, is a software development engineer in test at Guaranteed Rate Inc.

Cherokee Hartman '14, W. Burlington, IA, is a graphic designer at Broken Arrow Graphics.

Stephanie Gilbert Koster '14, Bloomington, is a secondary English teacher at the Decatur Public School Dist. # 61.

Samantha Leav '14, Carlinville, is a mathematics principal consultant for the IL State Board of Education in Springfield.

Hillary Lee '14, Henderson, NE, is the collaboration specialist and family advocate coordinator for the Blue Valley Community Action in York.

Byron Oden-Shabazz '14 MS '20, Macomb, completed his MS in Sports Management Spring 2020.

Andrew Patzer '15, Romeoville, is a sr. supply planner at Univar Solutions in Bedford Park.

Michaela Wheeler '15, New Holstein, WI, is the operations manager at F3 Marina in Sheboygan.

Shana Kessler MS '16, Ellensburg, WA, is the intramural sports and special events coordinator at Central Washington University.

Rachel Mead-Bockrath '16, Denver, CO, is a sr. GIS technician at Invenergy.

Tabetha Dugan Russell '16, Taylor Ridge, is an accounting supervisor at John Deere.

Anna Stange '16, Muscatine, IA, is a 1st grade teacher at Muscatine Community School Dist.

Jared Worley '16 MA '18, Imperial, MO, is a quality reviewer at SSE Inc.

Kara Ziegler '16, Rolling Meadows, is a sr. accountant for ECS Financial Service, Inc.

Roger Brush '17, Dodge City, KS, is a zookeeper at Wright Park Zoo.

Emma Fried Campuzano '17, Mt Pleasant, IA, is an MCR Generalist at Hearth & Home Technologies.

Kelsey Jacob '17, Lisle, is a high school physical development teacher at West Chicago Community High School.

Tyler John '17, Speedway, IN, is a general music teacher and AVID instructor at Carmel Clay Schools.

Bradley McCormick '17, Farmer City, is a police officer for the Urbana Police Dept.

Katy Krieg '18, Basco, is the asst. to the Dean at Carl Sandburg College.

Nadia Saracco '18, Montgomery, is a sr. ranger for the Forest Preserve Dist. of DuPage County.

Katherine Ball '19, Aledo, is the people lead at Walmart.

Gina Brocato '19, Grand Junction, MI, is the paraprofessional for special education at S. Haven Public Schools.

Paul Mills MS-ED '19, Orion, is the principal of Roosevelt Elementary in Moline.

Paige Wexell '19, Cambridge, is the ROWVA High School volleyball coach.

Marriages & Civil Unions

Stephanie Abbott '06 and Tom Kaminski, Dec. 6, 2019.

Nick Bangert '18 and Sidney Lilienthal, Oct. 5, 2019.

Ashley Dierks '13 and **Joel Czernecki '13**, May 18, 2019.

Suzanne Kearney '96 and Steven Summers, Oct. 5, 2019.

Rachel Mead '16 and **Eric Bockrath '16**, Oct. 19, 2019.

Rachel Mies '12 and **Thomas Boyd '13**, Mar. 14, 2020.

Elyse Simcock '09 and **Kaiser Minhas**, Mar. 16, 2019.

Holly Stauffer '16 and **Kurt Ritter '15**, Sept. 21, 2019.

Anthony Troeger '88 and **Monica Lago**, Aug. 2019.

Nichole Westerlund '02 and **Seth Hancock**, Dec. 27, 2019.

Hazel Williams '18 and **Austin Kopera '18**, Nov. 9, 2019.

Births & Adoptions

Kristin Leighty Brackemyre '10 and **Adam**, a son, **Jacob Lewis**, Nov. 15, 2019.

See the world with your *WIU Alumni Association!*

SAVE THE DATE for these 2021 trips!

Dutch Waterways
April 2-10, 2021
Gems of the Danube
May 14-25, 2021

Grand Seine River &
Normandy Passage
May 16-24, 2021

Tuscany
June 26-July 4, 2021
Undiscovered Ireland
Aug. 21-Sept. 1, 2021

Journey to Southern Africa
Sept. 14-29, 2021
Lustrous Coasts
Sept. 25-Oct. 6, 2021

Amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, safety is our top priority. The WIU Alumni Travel Program is closely monitoring developments around the world, and we are working with our travel vendor partners to provide you with the best information possible. Our travel partners will be communicating with those currently registered for a tour as to what the current status is and what options travelers have.

Evan Crum '08 and Christina, a son, Miles Lincoln, July 28, 2020.

Ashley Bishop Cushman '04 MS '06 and **Jay Cushman '05**, a son Luke Bishop, Dec. 4, 2018.

Patrick Downing '09 and Kristena, a son, Luke Frazier, June 20, 2019.

Robert Dulski '08 MA '11 and Annie, a daughter, Madeline, April 3, 2020.

Colby Fayhee '12 and Megan, a daughter, AutumnMae, Dec. 2, 2019.

Grant Fleetwood '11 MS '13 and **Heather Raschke Fleetwood '12**, twin daughters, Maya and Lena, Feb. 28, 2020.

Jessica Anderson Gaines '03 and Jonte, a daughter, Bellamy Quin, Jan. 12, 2020.

Kathryne Valentin Gorsuch '15 PB-CERT '16 and **Derek Gorsuch '12**, a daughter, Valentina Lynee, Mar. 15, 2020.

Matt Graber '07 and Kara, a son, Ezra, Feb. 11, 2019.

Cherokee Hartman '14 and Winston Hostetter, a daughter, Harlow Grace, Jan. 15, 2020.

Jessica Leimbach Janiak '16 and **Kyle Janiak '16**, a daughter, Jaclyn Grace, Nov. 24, 2019.

Reid Kelso '08 '16 and **Sarah Huston Kelso '10**, a daughter, Scottlynn Grace Lee, Apr. 19, 2019.

Katy Kirby Krieg '18 and **Casey Krieg '11**, a son, Wade Lee, Jan. 7, 2019.

Alyssa Hardy Krug '11, and **Russell Krug '11**, a daughter, Louisa Eugenie, Mar. 20, 2019.

James Kveton '08 and **Ashley Davis Kveton '07**, a daughter, Everly Ann, Mar. 29, 2019.

Matthew McRaven '19 and Mandi, a daughter, Evynn Barbara, Nov. 2, 2019.

Derek Nathan '09 and Lindsay, a son, Liam, July 9, 2019.

Morgan Smith Newey '07, and Carl, a daughter, Hattie, June 13, 2019.

Brian Obremski '02 and Marybeth, twin sons, Henry and Brady, Apr. 21, 2019.

Jeff Plackett '01 and Megan, a son, Zeke, Sept. 3, 2019.

Sarah Squires Raftis '04 and Patrick, a son, Samuel John, July 29, 2019.

Kathleen Murbarger Roberts '03 and Jason, a son, Logan, Feb. 1, 2019.

Caili Dochterman Rodeffer '14 and **Jordan '15**, a daughter, Maizey Lucille, Sept. 17, 2019.

Joseph Roselieb '07 MS '09 and **Ketra Russell Roselieb '09 MBA '11**, a son, Aiden Richard, July 30, 2020.

Chris Sinnokrak '04 and Danielle, a son, Riley James, Nov. 9, 2019.

Laci Smith '08 a daughter, Luella Dean, Nov. 17, 2019.

Megan Smith Swanson '07 and Jake, a son, Jackson Jacob, Dec. 3, 2018.

Shelbi Root Taylor '16 and **Ethan Taylor '13**, a son, Aiden William, May 4, 2020.

Ami Meisner Vanderhoof '04 and **Sean Vanderhoof '05**, a daughter, Hannah Michelle, Aug. 9, 2019.

Shannon Chambers Ward '05 and Tim, a son, Gavin Timothy, May 29, 2019.

Brandi Watkins Warner '09 a daughter, Janaya, Mar. 23, 2020.

Amber Beaulieu Wetzel '13 and Aaron, a daughter, Aurora Lynn, Feb. 6, 2020.

Court White '12 and **Haley Evans White '13**, a daughter, Abilene Grace, Apr. 11, 2020.

Deaths

2018 Luke C. Foster, Colchester, Dec. 22, 2019.

2017 John C. Banks, Davenport, IA, Oct. 23, 2019.

2016 Valencia R. Parker Pettigrew MS, Macomb, Dec. 31, 2019.

2016 Elizabeth S. Stufflebean, Cuba, Nov. 26, 2019.

2015 Matthew Casanas, Lakewood, Sept. 15, 2016.

2014 Crystal Roti, Park Forest, Feb. 28, 2020.

2014 Peter R. Tarantola MS, Macomb, Oct. 23, 2019.

2010 Sandra Q. Quellmalz Erchinger MS-ED, Petersburg, Sept. 5, 2016.

2010 Michelle Skram Mays MS-ED '10, Pella, IA, Sept. 26, 2016.

2009 John Yasenok III, Highland Ranch, CO, Oct. 3, 2019.

2008 Tori J. Johnson Sohm, Troy, MI, Mar. 14, 2020.

2007 Kathy M. Myatt, Silvis, Mar. 1, 2017.

2006 Jonathon L. Messick, Overland Park, KS, Aug. 10, 2017.

2005 Angela L. Estes, Peoria, Jan. 25, 2020.

2005 Kevin J. Houlihan, Rolling Meadows, Dec. 16, 2017.

2005 Jeffrey J. Kilgard, Coal Valley, Aug. 7, 2017.

2005 Erin R. Zane Witt, Mundelein, Mar. 31, 2020.

2004 Matthew R. Thiel, Omaha, NE, Oct. 19, 2017.

2003 Nathan A. Cobb, Macomb, Jan. 30, 2020.

2003 Kathleen H. Heck Maher MS-ED '03, Springfield, Mar. 14, 2017.

2003 Nicole L. Hintze Roman, E. Moline, Jan. 16, 2020.

2002 Kathy A. Heitz Coats, Bushnell, June 16, 2020.

2002 Barbara L. Kiser, Medina, Nov. 5, 2016.

2002 Christopher R. Kloker, Pittsfield, July 17, 2017.

2001 Anthony F. Blake, Muscatine, IA, Mar. 19, 2018.

2001 Donald F. Gran, Jr. MS, Daytona Beach Shores, FL, Sept. 7, 2017.

- 2001 Stephanie D. Taylor**, Monmouth, Mar. 19, 2020.
- 1999 Laura L. Campbell Alander MA '01**, Conroe, TX, Aug. 28, 2016.
- 1999 Davey L. Lefler**, Idaho Falls, ID, Dec. 18, 2019.
- 1999 John T. McCormack**, Pekin, Jan. 18, 2017.
- 1999 Joel F. Randolph**, Jerseyville, Apr. 13, 2020.
- 1999 Kathryn L. Thornton Withenbury PB-CER '03 MS-ED '04**, Camden, SC, Jan. 25, 2019.
- 1998 Sue C. Carlston Barrington**, Little York, Nov. 27, 2019.
- 1998 Dennis R. Green**, Quincy, Jan. 6, 2019.
- 1997 Mark W. Border MBA '13**, Rock Island, Nov. 25, 2019.
- 1997 David R. Fenton**, Republic, MO, July 3, 2017.
- 1997 Rebecca L. Woodward Niewohner**, Mt. Sterling, June 14, 2019.
- 1997 Amy N. Edlen Wilbur**, Metamora, Feb. 16, 2019.
- 1996 Michael C. Harris**, Romeoville, Jan. 24, 2018.
- 1996 Tanya L. Bolden Sanford MS '98**, O'Fallon, Oct. 12, 2016.
- 1996 Madena G. Stauffer-Chuvala MS-ED '12**, Macomb, Apr. 27, 2020.
- 1996 Trudy C. Knowles Trobaugh**, Canton, Feb. 6, 2020.
- 1996 Lorri A. Wunder**, Lombard, Dec. 31, 2017.
- 1995 Brian J. Glos**, Hilton Head Island, SC, Oct. 13, 2016.
- 1995 Trenton T. Hartwig**, Ontario, NY, Aug. 9, 2017.
- 1995 Mark R. McCullough**, Sherman, TX, Oct. 16, 2019.
- 1995 Michael G. Thornley PB-CER '01**, Plainfield, Jan. 30, 2018.
- 1995 David D. Wolbers**, Monmouth, May 9, 2020.
- 1994 Shelly A. Schultz Beavers**, Downers Grove, July 8, 2019.
- 1994 Carrie A. Mills Finley**, Lafayette, LA, Jan. 2, 2020.
- 1994 John S. Hinde**, Rockford, Mar. 31, 2018.
- 1994 Danielle A. Schellenberger Kunert**, Portland, ME, July 26, 2017.
- 1994 Victor W. Lopez**, Round Lake Beach, July 3, 2020.
- 1994 Kelly J. Evan Lopresti**, Darien, Nov. 12, 2017.
- 1994 Kenneth W. VanDerHeyden**, Geneseo, Mar. 12, 2017.
- 1994 Sharon K. Sage Yeager**, Galesburg, Feb. 24, 2020.
- 1993 James R. Balmer, Jr.**, Peotone, Sept. 14, 2016.
- 1993 Kimberly S. McOlgan Fish**, Land O'Lakes, FL, Feb. 18, 2017.
- 1993 Christopher J. "Gus" Saam MS '95**, Galena, Nov. 10, 2018.
- 1992 Tracy L. Peterson-Kettwick MS '07**, DeWitt, IA, July 17, 2017.
- 1992 Dennis J. Morgan**, LeRoy, Jan. 3, 2018.
- 1992 Faith A. Same Reitman**, Skokie, Dec. 1, 2018.
- 1992 Deborah J. Quick Starnes**, Canton, June 8, 2019.
- 1991 Deanna R. Smiddy Aikman**, Eureka, May 2, 2019.
- 1991 William M. Beals**, Hampton, May 9, 2017.
- 1991 Valerie V. Nichols Harmon**, Waukegan, Mar. 4, 2017.
- 1991 Karla R. Kelley MS '06**, Washington, DC, Nov. 5, 2019.
- 1991 Elliott E. "Eric" Metzger**, Gilmer, TX, Oct. 27, 2017.
- 1991 Joseph Polk MA '96**, Louisville, KY, Jan. 20, 2018.
- 1991 Steven R. Schriefer**, Davenport, IA, Feb. 15, 2018.
- 1990 Joseph L. Buresh MS-ED**, Geneseo, Apr. 9, 2020.
- 1990 John C. Dunker MS '08**, Easton, Nov. 17, 2017.
- 1990 Madelyn R. "Lynn" Schneider Kettering**, Rushville, Apr. 26, 2019.
- 1990 Patricia G. Hartle Widger**, Herod, Jan. 15, 2018.
- 1989 Russell W. Brahmstedt**, Avon, July 25, 2019.
- 1989 Shawn L. Latham Govan**, Flossmoor, Apr. 27, 2020.
- 1989 Stephen F. Klotz**, Geneseo, June 21, 2019.
- 1989 Steven M. Tarachow MS**, Milwaukee, WI, Sept. 13, 2017.
- 1988 Martha E. Fuller MA '90**, Silvis, Feb. 22, 2020.
- 1988 Sandra L. Sellers Naylor MA**, Rochester, MN, Dec. 15, 2017.
- 1987 Donna D. Smith Crawford**, Macomb, Jan. 15, 2020.
- 1987 Carolyn D. Coats**, Monmouth, Jan. 30, 2020.
- 1987 Randy L. Lin M.ACCT '05**, Coal Valley, Feb. 7, 2020.
- 1986 David A. Greenwald**, Crystal Lake, Oct. 8, 2016.
- 1986 Linda S. Gibson McClurg MS-ED '86**, Bettendorf, IA, Sept. 16, 2018.
- 1986 Janet A. Slanger**, Frankfort, Dec. 13, 2016.
- 1986 Michele S. Touvelle**, New Hope, PA, Dec. 22, 2018.
- 1986 David C. Walters**, Morgan Hill, CA, Dec. 10, 2018.
- 1985 Carol S. Levisay Brown MS '87**, Princeton, Apr. 23, 2019.
- 1985 Wyllys D. "Dean" Kitterman**, Kenney, Sept. 18, 2017.
- 1985 William S. Lukas**, Franklin Park, Mar. 31, 2018.
- 1985 Bridget D. Donahoe Moscatello**, Glen Ellyn, Jan. 14, 2017.
- 1985 Jeff A. Novak**, Los Angeles, CA, June 12, 2019.
- 1985 Charles F. Spraggins**, Bloomsburg, PA, Feb. 1, 2018.
- 1985 John A. Talley**, Rock Island, Mar. 23, 2019.
- 1985 Jennifer L. Fritsch Winters**, Wheaton, Apr. 3, 2017.
- 1984 Pamela M. Huff Barnes**, Cincinnati, OH, June 12, 2017.
- 1984 Daniel J. Krupa**, Cortland, Jan. 23, 2019.
- 1984 Patricia A. Terry Riden MS '88**, LaHarpe, Feb. 21, 2020.
- 1984 Lisa R. Stephans Shibley**, Lancaster, PA, Mar. 21, 2020.
- 1984 Linda L. Lynch Strasma MA ;86**, Peoria, Nov. 13, 2019.
- 1983 E. Stephen "Stevie" Frankie**, Springfield, May 5, 2016.
- 1983 Evelyn C. Kelly MA '90**, Rock Island, July 23, 2019.
- 1983 Cynthia S. Archdale Miller**, Churubusco, IN, Sept. 30, 2017.
- 1983 Rodney G. Nichols**, Columbus, OH, Sept. 22, 2017.
- 1983 Cruzon E. "Beth" Riepe Randleman MS-ED**, Georgetown, TX, Oct. 30, 2019.
- 1983 Richard W. Snider**, Moline, Oct. 2, 2018.
- 1983 Clark D. Sweetman**, Tallahassee, FL, Dec. 22, 2019.
- 1982 Denise J. Jepsen Blake**, Patagonia, AZ, Feb. 19, 2017.
- 1982 Cynthia A. Keller**, Granite City, June 5, 2017.
- 1982 Laura M. Janssens Klugger**, Rock Island, Aug. 30, 2019.
- 1982 Bonnie M. Jansen Kuehl**, Temple TX, Feb. 18, 2020.
- 1982 Carol A. Bruder LaRue Dripping Springs**, TX, Apr. 4, 2018.
- 1982 Patricia A. Grohwin Pleta**, Tinley Park, May 27, 2019.
- 1982 Michael V. Volland**, Golden, CO, July 5, 2018.
- 1982 Susan M. Plunkett Wessels**, Davenport, IA, May 5, 2020.
- 1981 Tamra L. Wendel Bierbom**, Utica, Jan. 8, 2020.
- 1981 David L. Ennis**, Galesburg, Nov. 21, 2016.

- 1981 Peggi J. Francis Huiskens**, Evanston, Sept. 2, 2017.
- 1981 Eric S. Kilpatrick**, Galesburg, Apr. 22, 2019.
- 1981 Salome "Sally" Kerr Martin**, Pekin, Nov. 23, 2016.
- 1981 Jay T. McDonald**, W. Covina, CA, Nov. 17, 2017.
- 1981 Richard H. Stahl ED SP**, Davenport, IA, Feb. 19, 2020.
- 1981 Debra D. Pickett Worman**, Glendale, AZ, Jan. 25, 2018.
- 1981 Kenneth M. Zimney MS-ED**, Davenport, IA, Oct. 20, 2019.
- 1980 Irma L. Stone Locklin**, Casper, WY, Aug. 1, 2018.
- 1980 Christine E. Jahde Neal**, Granger, IN, Nov. 29, 2019.
- 1980 Cynthia L. Simpson Nieman**, Phoenix, AZ, Jan. 26, 2020.
- 1980 David A. Pasley**, Melbourne, FL, July 24, 2019.
- 1980 Elizabeth M. Schulte MS**, Scottville, MI, Jan. 23, 2019.
- 1980 James E. Thoureen**, Moline, Apr. 23, 2020.
- 1980 Mark C. Van Cleave**, Southlake, TX, Dec. 5, 2019.
- 1979 Debbie K. Dunn**, Decatur, Feb. 25, 2020.
- 1979 John M. Wilson MA '87**, Leesburg, FL, Jan. 20, 2017.
- 1978 Casey Lee Cunningham**, Galesburg, July 7, 2017.
- 1978 Mark S. Grab**, Crystal Lake, Nov. 20, 2019.
- 1978 Ruby J. McGartland MS-ED '96**, Quincy, Nov. 27, 2019.
- 1978 Robin Jo Ferguson McKibben**, Springfield, Jan. 20, 2016.
- 1978 Carol Y. Roth MS-ED**, Davenport, IA, Mar. 31, 2020.
- 1978 William G. Stokes**, Rockford, Oct. 2, 2019.
- 1977 Lorna S. Stacey Bronstein**, Geneseo, Oct. 15, 2016.
- 1977 Randy W. Brown**, San Antonio, TX, Aug. 12, 2016.
- 1977 Paul E. Coleman MBA '87**, Belleville, Oct. 23, 2018.
- 1977 Wayne Downing**, Deep Gap, NC, Aug. 28, 2017.
- 1977 Cynthia A. Schuler Gavilsky MS-ED '80**, Granite City, July 11, 2019.
- 1977 Steven T. Stelmach**, Chicago, Oct. 10, 2019.
- 1977 Cathleen M. "Cathy" Trinen**, Lombard, May 1, 2016.
- 1977 Noreen D. Delaney Zaideman**, Bartlett, Jan. 19, 2020.
- 1976 Joseph M. Genna, Sr.**, Brookfield, Oct. 3, 2018.
- 1976 Randy Kaufmann**, Roseville, MN, May 3, 2019.
- 1976 Janet L. Novy**, Helena, MT, Sept. 16, 2019.
- 1975 Daniel J. Fross**, La Crosse, WI, Mar. 25, 2016.
- 1975 Janel. K. Harris**, Macomb, Dec. 12, 2019.
- 1975 Darlene M. Pedersen, Kilbourne**, Walnut Cove, NC, May 9, 2020.
- 1975 Carla M. Montie**, Knoxville, TN, Apr. 19, 2015.
- 1975 Alan M. Nakayama '76**, Oak Lawn, Sept. 27, 2018.
- 1975 Thomas L. Powell**, Macomb, Dec. 16, 2019.
- 1975 Brenda M. Young Steen**, Elizabethtown, KY, May 10, 2019.
- 1975 Cecil L. Vancil**, Macomb, July 2, 2020.
- 1975 Gracia M. Waddill MS-ED**, Cumming, GA, Feb. 5, 2015.
- 1974 Jeannette M. Ehler Golde**, Ironwood, MI, Jan. 7, 2017.
- 1974 Thomas M. Haberle**, Macomb, Mar. 26, 2020.
- 1974 Jane Lightle**, Auburn, Sept. 10, 2018.
- 1974 Michael R. Lundborn**, Normal, May 25, 2020.
- 1974 Thaddeus Rzeszuto M.ACCT '75**, Des Plaines, Mar. 11, 2019.
- 1974 Michael C. Scaramella**, Hawthorn Woods, May 3, 2020.
- 1974 Carol A. Ripper Starrett**, Havana, Nov. 2019.
- 1974 Craig Steinman**, Rapid City, June 16, 2018.
- 1974 Neil J. Welsh**, Good Hope, Sept. 30, 2020.
- 1973 Gordon L. Cheniae**, Cobden, Jan. 20, 2019.
- 1973 Edwin W. Ham**, Macomb, Feb. 14, 2020.
- 1973 Richard McKay**, Camp Verde, AZ, Oct. 12, 2019.
- 1973 Gerald Monnot**, Sun City Center, FL, Dec. 11, 2019.
- 1973 Lewis R. Samuels**, Crossville, TN, Sept. 17, 2019.
- 1973 Susan A. Wehrmeister Semeizer**, Maple Grove, MN, Aug. 1, 2019.
- 1972 Leslie C. Anderson**, Andover, Feb. 15, 2020.
- 1972 David L. Lanier**, Springfield, June 17, 2018.
- 1972 Jerry E. Lewis**, Good Hope, Dec. 10, 2019.
- 1972 Stephen M. Murphy MS '78**, St. Cloud, MN, Jan. 22, 2019.
- 1972 Charlene Rich**, Richey, MT, Jan. 4, 2018.
- 1972 Gary K. Utter**, Monmouth, Nov. 17, 2019.
- 1971 Rosanne C. Bonini**, Ottawa, Dec. 9, 2019.
- 1971 Francine J. Johnston Hansen MS '76**, Moline, Aug. 5, 2016.
- 1971 Sharon L. Dallefeld McElvaine**, Avon, Apr. 30, 2019.
- 1971 John N. Moore**, Champaign, Apr. 17, 2019.
- 1971 Mark D. Rutledge**, Alpha, Aug. 27, 2019.
- 1971 Timothy T. Taylor**, Pickins, SC, Oct. 3, 2019.
- 1971 Robert S. Trotter**, Richmond, TX, June 26, 2019.
- 1971 Randall N. Von Kaenel MAcc '76**, Alpharetta, GA, Apr. 6, 2017.
- 1971 Karla J. Waage**, Lake Forest, CA, Mar. 23, 2019.
- 1970 Stephen C. Adams**, Geneseo, Apr. 4, 2020.
- 1970 Carmen R. DeAngelis**, Viera, FL, June 12, 2019.
- 1970 Joanne L.S. Sindt Findley MS-ED**, Macomb, Nov. 27, 2019.
- 1970 Patricia A. Knustrom**, Nauvoo, Nov. 21, 2019.
- 1970 Thomas H. P. Kuehl**, Bolingbrook, June 22, 2020.
- 1970 Martin E. Ruberry**, Pebble Beach, CA, Feb. 3, 2020.
- 1970 Kenneth E. Scott**, Clayton, NC, Dec. 8, 2017.
- 1970 Marie E. Carr Szkalak MA '72**, Berea, OH, Nov. 28, 2016.
- 1970 Joyce Whitlock Voytek**, Cleveland, GA, June 29, 2018.
- 1970 Gary H. Wood ED-SP '74**, Pekin, May 6, 2019.
- 1969 Harold E. Ford MS '71, ED SP '79**, Geneseo, Jan. 20, 2020.
- 1969 Marjorie E. Anderson Harrell MS-ED**, Carthage, Apr. 9, 2020.
- 1969 Edward C. Heinz MS**, Westwood, NJ, Sept. 1, 2018.
- 1969 Ronald G. Kessel**, Orion, Dec. 21, 2019.
- 1969 Jerry C. Lindvall MS '74**, Lake Summerset, Apr. 23, 2019.
- 1969 Robert B. Long MS**, Davenport, IA, Jan. 7, 2020.
- 1969 Sue E. Cole Staley MS '01**, Moline, May 19, 2019.
- 1969 Glen W. Wolfrom**, St. Joseph, MO, July 9, 2019.
- 1968 Billy J. Brockhouse**, Winchester, MO, Mar. 19, 2020.
- 1968 David S. Cass MS-ED '71**, Galesburg, Nov. 14, 2019.
- 1968 Deanna L. Hardacre**, Freeport, Dec. 19, 2018.
- 1968 R. Dean Lubbs**, Mendota, May 26, 2020.
- 1968 Richard C. Rohrer**, Aurora, Aug. 14, 2019.
- 1968 Jerry E. Thomson MS '71**, Macomb, June 23, 2020.
- 1968 Edmund F. Wichman III**, Barrington, May 24, 2019.
- 1967 Leo L. Copeland**, League City, TX, Feb 3, 2016.
- 1967 Karen S. Walters Danner MS-ED '72**, Chillicothe, Nov. 13, 2019.

Upcoming Virtual Engagement Opportunities

In this challenging time, it is more important than ever that we stay connected as a WIU community. Though we may not be able to gather in person, we recognize how powerful it can be for us to come together virtually to support and learn from each other. The WIU Alumni Association and our University partners are offering a wide variety of virtual engagement opportunities for our alumni and friends to stay connected. Visit our Virtual Alumni & Friends Event Series website at www.wiu.edu/alumni/virtualevents.php for a list of our virtual engagement opportunities. Have an idea for an event, topic or speaker? Let us know by sending an email to A-Association@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1914.

Save the Date

Homecoming 2020 Part I: Virtual Oct. 9-10; Part II: In person Spring 2021

Rocky Through The Decades . . . Purple & Gold Never Get Old

Visit wiu.edu/homecoming for details!

1967 Jerry D. Mayo,
Plymouth, Sept. 29, 2019.

1967 Dennis A. Schreck, Hot
Springs Vlg, AR, Oct. 5, 2019.

1966 Sidney B. Beavers,
Dublin, OH, Dec. 2, 2018.

1966 Frank M. Burkett,
Carthage, June 4, 2020.

1966 Carol L. "Sue" Chase,
Galesburg, Dec. 7, 2019.

**1966 Joanne "Jody" Pusck
Darling**, Shelbyville, Sept. 20,
2017.

**1966 Maxine E. Sponsler
Rhodes MS**, Lewistown, Nov.
2, 2019.

**1966 Richard L. Soderstrom
ED SP '73**, Moline, Sept. 3,
2018.

1966 William J. Walker,
Madison, WI, Aug. 12, 2019.

1965 W. James Litwiller,
Morton, Apr. 24, 2019.

1965 Frederick N. Olsen, Elk
Rapids, MI, June 25, 2020.

**1965 Carol H. Hebenstreit
Uebner**, Omaha, NE, Jan. 9,
2020.

1965 Connie L. Brown Webb,
Lewistown, Feb. 8, 2020.

**1964 Mary J. Youngblood
Brown**, Beardstown, Apr. 22,
2019.

1964 Terrell L. Carlson,
Scottsdale, AZ, Nov. 6, 2019.

**1964 Charles "Malcolm"
Patrick**, Macomb, Apr. 15,
2020.

**1964 Burdette L. "Burt"
Ringquist MS-ED ED SP '71**,
Lakewood Ranch, FL, July 10,
2019.

1964 Robert R. Scott,
Sebring, FL, Apr. 22, 2019.

**1964 Linda A. Nott Van Zant
MS-ED '89**, Ellisville, Oct. 29,
2019.

1963 Tran Thien An,
Huntington Beach, CA, Feb.
11, 2018

1963 William W. Hamman,
Longwood, FL, Apr. 29, 2019.

**1963 Twila M. Allan Pettit
MS-ED '67**, Jacksonville, May
8, 2016.

1963 Ron L. Schilling,
Lincoln, Apr. 24, 2020.

1963 Charles S. Seward,
Monmouth, Mar. 23, 2020.

1963 Judy M. Simpson-Platts,
Calabasas, CA, Jan. 2, 2018.

**1963 Judith A. Anderson
Tumbleson**, Rock Island, Feb.
20, 2019.

**1962 Linda L. Wagher
Armstrong**, Sun Lakes, AZ,
Mar. 31, 2020.

**1962 Norma L. Van Bebber
Blake MA '72**, Macomb, Oct.
3, 2019.

1962 David L. Bland,
Manteca, CA, Dec. 5, 2019.

1961 Edwin R. Fitzgibbon,
Springfield, Oct. 10, 2019.

1961 Barbara I. Glasow,
Macomb, May 20, 2020.

1961 Ronald L. Hanning,
Lexington, KY, Jan. 18, 2020.

1961 James D. Miller,
Macomb, June 14, 2020.

**1961 Louise W. Wilson
Penington**, Meredosia, Feb.
4, 2020.

1961 Richard G. Price, Long
Beach, CA Mar. 16, 2019.

**1960 Ronald L. "Leon"
Bricker**, Woodstock, GA, Nov.
15, 2019.

1960 Oliver N. Cinnamon,
Kankakee, Apr. 23, 2019.

**1960 Byron R. "Roger"
Distlehorst MS-ED '64**,
Springfield, Apr. 16, 2019.

1960 David D. Ernst,
Hamilton, Apr. 13, 2019.

1960 Alfred W. Hostick, Jr.,
Springfield, Jan. 21, 2020.

1960 Marley "Ted" Printy,
Oglesby, Mar. 13, 2017.

1960 Richard L. Roe,
Lewistown, Sept. 5, 2019.

**1960 Betty J. Lingwall
Rubbert**, Wichita, KS, Apr. 6,
2019.

1960 Nelson A. Snowden,
Vermont, Nov. 10, 2019.

1959 Donald D. Bartlett,
Prophetstown, Sept. 11, 2019.

1959 Eldon R. Hare MS '61,
Macomb, Dec. 4, 2019.

1959 Gale Schisler, London
Mills, Feb. 2, 2020.

**1958 Walter R. "Bob"
Kuntzmann MS-ED '63**,
Havana, Mar. 2, 2017.

1958 Dale W. Meador MS '59,
Ogden UT, Dec. 2, 2019.

**1958 Carol O. Thorman
Waller MS-ED '71**, Table
Grove, June 2, 2020

**1957 William F. Boehm MS-
ED '58**, Venice, FL, Sept. 15,
2019.

1957 Marshall Hudson, Sr.,
E. Lansing, MI, Apr. 28, 2019.

1957 Dennis Lewis, Danville,
Feb. 5, 2018.

1957 Ronald L. Thomas, Ft
Myers, FL, June 14, 2019.

1957 Donald D. West, Leroy,
Apr. 24, 2020.

1956 Diane Baxter, Carthage,
June 20, 2020.

1956 James K. Conlee,
Dayton, OH, Oct. 5, 2018.

1956 Margaret N. Phillips,
Sycamore, May 5, 2020.

1955 Thomas J. Booth, Jr.,
Macomb, Dec. 26, 2019.

**1955 Earl L. Hunsaker MS
'57**, Royal Oak, MI, Nov. 17,
2019.

1955 Nancy L. McCord,
Peoria, Mar. 16, 2017.

**1955 Michael S. Wayland MS
'58**, San Jose, June 20, 2018.

**1954 Rosemary S. Schelkopf
Gurley MS-ED '59**, Canton,
Sept. 24, 2019.



1952 Samuel E. Kramm, High Point, NC, Sept. 24, 2018.

1952 Stanford R. Shover MS '54, Roseville, Dec. 17, 2019

1952 Donald "Whitie" R. Stanforth, Huntington Beach, CA, Feb. 5, 2018.

1952 Carl S. Sallee Totten, Alexis, Dec. 19, 2019.

1951 Melvin E. Fletcher MS '58, Canton, Aug. 31, 2019.

1951 Lloyd K. Inkster, Garden Grove, CA, Dec. 13, 2018.

1951 Jack L. Landis, Santa Maria, CA, Oct. 5, 2019.

1950 Charles R. "Bob" Delahunt MS '53 CAS '70, Galesburg, Feb. 8, 2020.

1950 Bernadine M. Brown Koomar, Manteno, Mar. 27, 2019.

1950 Lloyd W. "Charlie" Miller, Macomb, Nov. 19, 2019.

1950 Kenneth P. "Prex" Morgan, Quincy, June 19, 2020.

1949 David J. Kasley, Pekin, Sept. 28, 2019.

1948 Glen J. Medus, Jr., Canton, Jan. 16, 2020.

1947 Robert L. Freeman, Henderson, NV, Dec. 4, 2019.

1945 Erva M. Wilson, Durango, CO, Nov. 16, 2016.

1943 Lucille Retherford Childs, MS-ED '72, Aledo, Feb. 14, 2019.

1943 Marie Doris McLaughlin, Springfield, July 24, 2019.

1943 Elsie L. Bean Smith, St. Louis, MO, May 7, 2018.

1943 Janice W. Francis Zern, Santa Maria, CA, Dec. 30, 2019.

1942 Walter I. Blessman MS '53, Western Springs, Jan. 12, 2019.

1942 Eileen M. Clemens Snowden MS-ED '62, Macomb, Nov. 20, 2019.

1940 Velma M. Mizner McGee, Springfield, May 28, 2019.

1939 Mildred I. Keel Marinich, London Mills, Nov. 24, 2019.

1939 John L. Moon, Macomb, Oct. 29, 2019.

1936 Martha E. Thomson, Redlands, CA, Jan. 22, 2018.

James L. Ashton, Bushnell, Feb. 7, 2020.

Wilbur "Bill" Bechtle, Augusta, GA, Feb. 5, 2017.

Charles E. Becker, Macomb, June 26, 2020.

Grant Bogue, Buda, TX, Apr. 2, 2020.

Mary L. Worrell Boyd, Carthage, Aug. 6, 2015.

Johnnie E. Brackman, Normal, Aug. 28, 2019.

Denver L. Brattain, Macomb, Dec. 22, 2019.

James W. Buffalo, Jr., Bushnell, Dec. 25, 2019.

Darrel R. Cady, Macomb, Nov. 2, 2019.

Lowell K. "Jack" Carle, Macomb, Dec. 21, 2019.

Evelyn I. Wolf Chadderdon, Bushnell, Jan. 27, 2020.

Janet L. Hammond Chambers, Macomb, Dec. 7, 2019.

John Chuvala III, Macomb, Nov. 6, 2019.

Richard Cook, Macomb, June 17, 2020.

Dorcas P. Corman Herche, Rushville, May 1, 2019.

Toni L. DePoy, Macomb, May 4, 2020.

Kristin M. Dunstan, Decatur, GA, Nov. 17, 2019.

Arlon E. Elser, Ruskin, FL, June 21, 2019.

Margaret J. "Joan" England, Macomb, Feb. 16, 2010.

Leland W. Estill Jr., Morton, May 28, 2019.

Carl E. Fenn, Independence, MO, Dec. 28, 2019.

Jan N. Flickinger, Macomb, Dec. 27, 2019.

Lawrence Garron, Framingham, MA, Sept. 13, 2019.

Betty J. Nelson Gaskill, Monmouth, Oct. 18, 2019.

Donna M. Barra Goehner, Waterloo, Jan. 8, 2020.

Richard B. Goode, Taylor Ridge, Nov. 10, 2019.

Debra D. Hannam, Dahinda, Mar. 23, 2020.

Mary E. Epley Hood, Galesburg, Jan. 22, 2020.

Esta L. McCullough Hubbert, Winchester, July 15, 2019.

George H. Hutson, Bloomington, Feb. 22, 2019.

Betty J. Hammond Hyde, Bushnell, Sept. 16, 2019.

George I. Inness, Galesburg, Nov. 27, 2019.

Iraj Kalantari, Macomb, June 2, 2019.

Anthony J. Karas, Lisle, Apr. 23, 2020.

Marilyn P. Warren Kelso, Pekin, Apr. 2, 2019.

Kwang C. Kim, Prospect Hts, Nov. 12, 2016.

Joyce K. Gray Kinne Adair, Apr. 28, 2020.

Carol T. Moody Lodico, Silvis, Sept. 24, 2019.

Blanche J. "Jan" Mathers, Macomb, Nov. 28, 2019.

Catherine M. Nichols McCourt, Sciota, Feb. 28, 2020.

Vera J. Butcher McCoy, Macomb, Jan. 11, 2020.

Arthur L. McEwen, Bushnell, Dec. 9, 2019.

Angelica M. Villarreal McKinney, Rockford, June 26, 2016.

James E. McKinney, Macomb, Apr. 4, 2020.

Kenneth W. Miller, Waverly, IA, July 5, 2020.

Stephen C. Nester, Fort Myers, FL, Feb. 12, 2019.

Marjorie M. Pemeyer, Macomb, Apr. 12, 2020.

Merlin Roth, Quincy, Dec. 7, 2019.

Dorothy J. "Dee" Coffman Scholtz, Grand Haven, MI, Nov. 7, 2018.

Beverly J. Doney Simmons, Macomb, Oct. 22, 2019.

Robert D. Simmons, Portland, OR, Dec. 17, 2018.

Donna L. Sloan, Macomb, May 13, 2019.

Donald J. Spolum, Macomb, Dec. 25, 2019.

Marjorie I. Sullivan, Macomb, Nov. 12, 2019.

Douglas E. Thompson, Waubon, MN, Nov. 1, 2016.

William H. Thorpe, Macomb, Oct. 21, 2019.

Willard T. Settles, Rushville, June 2, 2020.

Charles S. Uskavitch, Jr., Guttenberg, IA, May 19, 2018.

Richard D. Vick, Macomb, Feb. 19, 2020.

Margene F. Edwards Weiss, Macomb, June 28, 2020.

Chester J. "Ronnie" Weronko, Quincy, Jan. 7, 2018.

SEND US YOUR NEWS



Visit wiu.edu/alumni and select the "Update Us" button.



Email your news to A-Association@wiu.edu.



Mail your update to WIU Alumni Association, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name if applicable and phone number.



Message us at [Facebook.com/WIUAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/WIUAlumni)



@WIUAlumni



@WIUAlumniAssociation

(309) 298-1914



**Western Illinois
University**

Alumni Association
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390



WRONG



WRONG



WRONG



RIGHT!



#MaskUpWIU

Col. Rock IV
aka "Ray"