

WESTERN

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2017



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Letter from the President

In this issue of the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine, we recognize and celebrate a few of the heroic individuals associated with WIU who dedicated their lives to their country. American poet Maya Angelou once said, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!" This edition of the Alumni Magazine serves as WIU's recognition and celebration of our military heroes.

Western Illinois University has a long and rich tradition of honoring and serving veterans and active members of the armed forces. Western has been designated a "Military Friendly School" by "G.I. Jobs" Magazine for eight consecutive years, and this year, WIU achieved "Gold" School Status in the "Large Public School" category (more than 10,000 students). For seven consecutive years, Western has been selected as a "Best for Vets College" by Military Times EDGE magazine. This year, WIU ranked 13th (from 15th in the 2016 rankings) and is the only Illinois public four-year university in the 2017 list's top 50. Recently, Western Illinois University was recognized as one of four Illinois public universities designated as a Top School in the Military Advanced Education & Transition (MAE&T) 2017 Guide to Colleges and Universities, which measures best practices in military and veteran education.

We are proud of our students, faculty, staff and alumni who are veterans and current active members of the armed forces. I offer our deepest appreciation for your service and your dedication. We welcome all active service personnel and veterans from all branches of the military back to Western to start or continue their education. It is our honor to serve you.

Sincerely,



Jack Thomas
President



Letter from the Vice President for Advancement & Public Services

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to send such positive feedback on our new alumni magazine. It was, and continues to be, a labor of love by a very small, but dedicated, group of employees at Western.

I am especially proud of this issue celebrating Western's military heritage and tradition. We honor true American heroes in this issue.

Few colleges or universities have a person who had such an impact on its history as Ray "Rock" Hanson did for Western, and his legacy remains to this day. The feature story, "The Man, The Myth, The Legend" is aptly named. It is important to understand the legend part of the story and why we are the Leathernecks and why the University once used the Marine Corps logo. We recently made the conscious decision to discontinue the use of the Marine Corps logo for our athletic program, which was made out of complete respect to the U.S. Marine Corps; it is their logo. Marines give it their all and fight for the right to proudly wear and display the Eagle, Globe and Anchor logo. We will continue to be known as the Leathernecks, and it is with great pride that we have this connection due to the efforts of Rock Hanson.

We will also continue our efforts to be a Best for Veterans and Military Friendly University. Honoring our students and our veterans has been a part of our fabric for more than a century. It is one of many, many reasons to be proud of Western Illinois University.

Go Leathernecks!



Brad Bainter '79 MS '83



WESTERN

SPRING 2017

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Have tips, questions or comments for the Western Illinois University Alumni Magazine?
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To send us your news, see pg. 45.

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University News

Two WIU MFA students named finalists in Kennedy Center acting competition

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Two Western Illinois University Master of Fine Arts (MFA) acting students are continuing what is becoming a departmental tradition of being named finalists for the Kennedy Center's Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship.

Jeffrey Young and Brett Olson have advanced through several regional rounds of competition to be named one of 16 national finalist teams. Young was chosen as the national nominee and Olson as his acting partner.

The competition will take place during the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, April 16-22 in Washington, D.C. The acting team will perform three pieces that showcase the variety of acting techniques they have developed throughout their education.

Irene Ryan was an American actress who is best known for her role as "Granny" in "The Beverly Hillbillies." Her scholarship is considered the biggest acting award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Both Young and Olson came to Western after finishing their undergraduate degrees elsewhere. Representatives of Western's Department of Theatre and Dance sought Young out during a theatre audition and invited him to visit campus.

"My wife and I came and visited the campus and they just embraced us and were very welcoming," said Young. "That was one of the biggest distinctions from the other universities and places that we had gone to. We had gone to New York City and

Virginia and several different places, but because we were so welcomed here it made it easier to want to partake in that kind of department."

Prior to coming to Western, Olson was a graduate student at the University of North Dakota – Grand Forks, where WIU alumnus Emily Cherry, a 2009 MFA graduate, heads the school's directing program.

"I just felt that everything that she had taught me about acting in that two-year program was something that I would really like to learn from the people who taught her," said Olson. "She ended up recommending me, and I came and did an audition at Western."

Young was nominated for the Kennedy Center competition initially because of his performance in WIU's 2016 "Tribes." He then asked Olson to be his acting partner.

During his undergraduate work, Young was nominated for the Irene Ryan scholarship twice and made it to the semi-final round both times. Olson participated in the final round of the regional competition one time during his undergraduate work.

Olson compared the acting team's regional win to a playoff bid.

"For us and for collegiate actors, this is like a bowl game," he said. "This is our final season working together, if you will, because we both graduate in May. We were like 'We're going to the Rose Bowl,' but it's the Kennedy Center for us."

This is the fourth time a WIU student has received the regional Irene Ryan Scholarship. The first nominee was actor and alumnus Michael Boatman '04 in the 1986 competition,

followed by alumni Nick Vienna in 2006 and Kelli Crump in 2007.

"The people in the audience (at the festival) are kind of movers and shakers within the theatrical industry," said Young. "So you are auditioning for, yes, the scholarship, but if you're a graduating student, you're also auditioning for employment. A lot of graduating students, once they have made it to the national level, often leave employed in a television show, or some theatrical production or being an ongoing member of a theatrical company."

The team said their career plans have changed somewhat since they have achieved acting success. Both said they have a passion for teaching, but as they progressed through the competition they have been approached by television directors with acting possibilities.

"This would never happened to us had we not come here, had we not met each other, had all of those pieces not fallen into place; it really is just a big blessing and really exciting," said Young. "It has [\[continued on page 38\]](#)



Brett Olson



Jeffrey Young

WIU alumni capture regional Emmy Awards

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

Aaron Frye '08 and Frannie Smith '15, both alumni from Western's Department of Broadcasting and Journalism, were recognized recently with the announcement that they each won a regional Emmy Award in their respective media markets.

Frye lives in Milwaukee, WI, and is a sports editor at WITI-FOX 6. He won his regional Emmy in December in the Chicago Midwest Chapter category of news specialty report/series in business/consumer. Frye was also nominated in the category of outstanding achievement for news specialty report/series in health and science.

"It is such an honor to receive such a prestigious award," Frye said recently. "I didn't do this alone, though. I work with such an amazing team at WITI. I'm thankful for all I've learned in such a short time in the news business. I also attribute that success to all the help and guidance of the amazing professors in the broadcasting department at WIU.

The story that led to Frye's Emmy Award, called "Thieves in the Night," was an investigative news story he worked on with multiple photojournalists and investigative reporter Bryan Polcyn. The story exposed a tow company that was towing cars and charging excessive fees to have the vehicles returned. Frye's story led to a change to the Milwaukee city ordinance governing the towing of vehicles.

After his graduation from WIU, Frye was offered a job at KJRH, an NBC affiliate in Tulsa, OK.

"I got lucky because another standout WIU grad, Jim Douth '05, was the chief photographer there at the time, and he loved that I was a WIU grad as well," said Frye. "[WIU Broadcasting and Journalism Professor] Roger Sadler put me in touch with him and the rest is history."

After spending a year in Oklahoma, Frye accepted a job at WICS, an ABC affiliate in Springfield, IL. After six

months, he moved on to Milwaukee, where he has been for the past three years.

"We have a handful of WIU grads working here now, and two or three others were working here when I started, but have since moved on to such cities as Chicago and Houston," said Frye.

Frye credits his work at WIU for kick starting his broadcasting career.

"I can't say enough about WIU and the broadcasting department in particular," he said. "It all starts with the professors—Buzz Hoon '86 MA '91, Sam Edsall and, of course, Roger Sadler. I don't know where I would be without them. They are the ones that pushed me to succeed. Roger Sadler let me run with my crazy ideas, and always just nudged me in the right direction. WIU also made a commitment to the broadcasting program with all the equipment. We had professional-grade equipment at our disposal and that really helped."

Smith is a producer at KTTC in Rochester, MN, and was part of two of her station's three Emmy wins in the Upper Midwest Region in October. Smith has been at KTTC since leaving WIU.

The two Emmy awards Smith was a part of included one for a Feb. 4 newscast with in-depth coverage of a puppy mill in the area and a combination of hard news and feature stories. [\[continued on page 38\]](#)



Aaron Frye '08



Frannie Smith '15

BSN degree named one of top five most affordable

College Choice, an independent online publication dedicated to helping students and their families find the right college, has recognized Western Illinois University as one of the most affordable online BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degrees in the country.

WIU ranked number five on the list of the top 20. The publication pointed out the programming WIU offers for nursing students as a reason for its ranking.

WIU School of Nursing Director P. Lea Monahan said she is proud WIU is able to offer outstanding educational programs in nursing at affordable prices for working RNs.

"Our programs are not only affordable, but are all online, so they are convenient with faculty used to working with students at a distance," said Monahan.

The RN-BSN program at WIU moved to a completely online format in Fall 2014 to accommodate the schedule of working nurses who hold an associate degree and are currently licensed as registered nurses, and who would like to further their education.

Western's nursing program, which is accredited by The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), began in 2008, and its first student cohort graduated in December 2010. The program was recently granted a 10-year accreditation by the CCNE. The department boasts a 100 percent job placement rate after graduation, and WIU students who take the National Council Licensure Exam have a 90 percent pass rate.

In 2016, the publication ranked Western as a 2016 Best Midwestern Regional University and the WIU School of Nursing as a 2016 Best Online RN to BSN Degree Program.

To see the complete list, visit collegechoice.net/rankings/cheapest-bachelors-in-nursing. ●

Because you're a girl

By Jodi Pospeschil MA '15

As a young girl growing up in Hinsdale, IL, in the 1970s, Ellyn Bartges MA '05 found herself navigating the changing landscape of high school sports for girls and witnessing the repression and trailblazing that faced those who tried to advance athletic opportunities for Illinois' girls and women.



**Ellyn Bartges
MA '05**

As a graduate student at Western Illinois University, Bartges found herself with a desire to preserve the stories of those who made it possible for her and many others to participate in high school sports, and those whose stories were being lost to history. As the capstone/ culminating project for her master's degree at Western, Bartges developed a collection of audio interviews with early pioneers in Illinois' sports for girls and women, particularly those working in the basketball arena.

The project grew beyond graduate school, and the collection of interviews grew to 36 and has since been cataloged in the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield, IL. Mark DePue, director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Oral History Program, has developed curriculum for the catalog so it can be used in classrooms for history and sociology research and projects.

"I immediately saw the potential in her project since it chronicled the impact that Title IX had on the lives of young girls at that time, the kind of societal change that has had a big impact on our culture and society since then and something that is too often overlooked" said DePue. "Since history is about studying and understanding change in society,

helping Ellyn preserve her interviews was a no-brainer. It has been an important addition to our collection, and one of the very first donated series to our fledgling oral history program at that time."

DePue also interviewed Bartges as part of the donation and her interview is now part of the permanent collection. The teacher resource guide DePue developed as part of the collection can be downloaded at bit.ly/2jnO2zx.

The idea for Bartges' oral history collection was born while she worked in the library at Macomb Junior/ Senior High School. She is now the Equity and Affirmative Action officer and Title IX coordinator for St. Cloud State University in Minnesota.

"I was searching the Internet for Illinois' girls basketball history, and there was basically nothing," said Bartges.

While she was a graduate student at Western, Bartges was also employed by the University's Affirmative Action Office. She worked with WIU History Professor Ginny Boynton on developing a final creative project to complete her master's degree.

"Mentoring Ellyn's graduate work at Western was both a pleasure and an honor," said Boynton. "Her research on the history of women's athletics has invaluable enriched our understanding of both modern women's history and the history of Illinois. It has truly been a joy to follow her subsequent career, both as she earned her doctorate at the University of Illinois and as she has continued to contribute as a university leader in Minnesota."

Illinois hosted its first state basketball tournament for girls in 1977, five years after the passage of Title IX legislation. In 1974, Bartges was a freshman in high school and saw signs hanging around her school for a try-out for girls' basketball. She later was a participant in that first state tournament.

"I tried out and I ended up playing four years, [\[continued on page 38\]](#)

Literary magazine for veterans continues in its third year

"SITREP: Veteran Perspectives on Combat and Peace," a literary magazine for WIU students, alumni, faculty and staff veterans and service members, will continue in its third year.

The project's advisors, Barbara Harroun '98 and Jacque Wilson-Jordan '86 MA '88, both assistant professors in the WIU Department of English, were inspired to create the magazine after years of working with student veterans in their composition and creative writing classes. Moved by the power of their students' stories and receiving early support from Kathy Meyers, assistant director of the Veterans Resource Center, Harroun and Wilson-Jordan believed such work should be celebrated and shared beyond the classroom to provide a forum for veterans and service members, as well as foster a greater cultural awareness of their experience.

Last year's magazine, now available at bit.ly/2li3kco, features fiction, non-fiction, poetry and photography by 16 contributors who represent all major service branches and served in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other locations stateside and overseas. Contributors have worked in a number of capacities, among them, machine gunner, corpsman, infantry officer, medic, automated logistical specialist, human resources officer, radio operator and pilot.

This year, student and alumni editors, Ryan Bronaugh, Jared Worley '16, Dan Holst and Luke Cummings, will continue their work with the magazine. Last year, Richard Chamberlain '81 MS '97 and Brice Shake '95, of CAIT (Center for the Application of Information Technologies), designed a website, which can be found at sitrep-vv.org. ●

Giving Back to Western

By Amanda Shoemaker MS '11

Western Illinois University Alumnus George Grice is no stranger when it comes to giving back to his alma mater.

Since 1985, Grice has established four Grice Family Education Scholarships including the Wrenn R. & Evelyn J. Grice Scholarship, named in honor of his parents; the Jessie Ferne Routh Grice Scholarship, named in honor of his grandmother; the Carol J. Grice Major Scholarship, named in honor of his older sister; and the Leanne L. Grice Porch Scholarship, named in honor of his younger sister. Like George, each of these family members attended Western and became teachers. And now, George is establishing a fifth scholarship, the Charles William Sr. and Josephine Luman Grice Scholarship in honor of his Uncle Bill and Aunt Jo. Similar to the other four scholarships, this new scholarship will assist Western students majoring in education, specifically those who plan to teach at the middle school or secondary levels.

“These scholarships affirm the importance of teaching and learning, and the role Western played in my family,” Grice said. “Increasing the number and financial amount of scholarships enhances teaching and learning. Nationwide, fewer students are enrolling in K-12 teacher training programs. And those who do, often choose more lucrative careers in order to pay off student loans.”

Born after his uncle’s death, Grice relied on stories from his parents and his Aunt Jo to learn about his Uncle Bill. Those stories, combined with excerpts from his father’s diaries and information from WIU Archives, have given him an image of who Charles William Grice Sr. was.

His Aunt Jo was one of three Luman sisters who attended Western, studying from 1938-40. She roomed

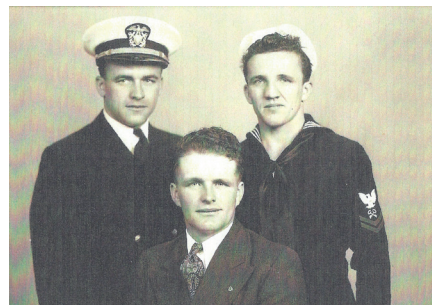
with her sister, Evelyn, in Monroe Hall. Valedictorian of her high school class, Jo studied education along with home economics. Bill joined his older brother, Wrenn, at Western, attending from 1936-40. He combined his love of science with a passion for music. Family and classmates often spoke of his performances at Western in the choir, musicals and men’s quartet.

The Grice brothers would meet the Luman sisters at Monroe Hall and escort them to a movie at the Illinois Theatre, to the library and to campus events. Bill married Jo in Summer 1940, and Wrenn and Evelyn married the following year. Bill accepted a teaching position at Wyand High School, where he taught science and worked with the band and choir. But his work would soon be interrupted by World War II.

On Oct. 23, 1944, Bill’s mother, Ferne, Wrenn and Jo took him to the CB&Q station in Galesburg, where he would begin the train ride to be processed for overseas duty. Wrenn would later remember this as “a last goodbye.” On Nov. 6, 1944, the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise left Pearl Harbor with Bill aboard.

Mike R. Vining, SGM USA (Retired) wrote the following about the USS Enterprise where Ensign Grice was assigned to the Mobile Explosives Investigation Unit:

At that time, the Enterprise was part of a task force supporting landings on Okinawa as part of Operation Iceberg. At dawn on May 14, 1945, the task force was attacked by about 28 single-engine planes as part of Japanese code name Kikusui (Floating Chrysanthemum). Six planes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire and 19 by the combat air patrol. Less than an hour later, one suicide kamikaze Mitsubishi used cloud cover and avoided 5-inch and 40-mm anti-aircraft fire while



L-r: Bill Grice, Wrenn Grice and Harry Grice. This is the last photo taken of the three Grice brothers. It was taken in Moline on Oct. 20, 1944, three days before Bill left for overseas duty.

*approaching the carrier from her stern. The kamikaze pilot crashed through the carrier’s forward flight deck and the resulting explosion blasted most of the ship’s forward elevator more than 400 feet in the air. The Enterprise was put out of operation, but was able to maintain her place in the formation and fight off more attacks that day. Fourteen sailors were killed-in-action, including Grice; another 68 were wounded. ENS Grice was buried at sea and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal. **

May 24, 1945, was Jo’s 25th birthday. The family had planned to celebrate the occasion quietly at the farm where she was born and now lived with her parents. They would wish for an end to the war. Jo looked forward to the day she and her 3 year-old son, Charles William Grice Jr., would be reunited with her husband. Those plans abruptly changed the morning of May 23. A telegram was delivered to the farm, informing Jo that her husband had been killed in action on May 14. Bill’s brother, Wrenn, wrote in his diary that evening: “As I sit here looking at your picture, I cannot fully realize that you are gone—that never again will I feel your warm grasp [continued on page 38]

ROTC

Celebrates

50 YEARS



Photo courtesy of the WIU Visual Production Center

The Leatherneck Battalion: The History of ROTC at WIU

By Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89
MS '98

Nearly 50 years ago, Western Illinois University was one of only 88 institutions in the United States qualified for a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) unit, and Western was one of just 15 new schools selected by the Department of the Army to house an ROTC unit.

As part of the new military science department and ROTC program at Western, which began in Fall 1968, the Army sent seven officers and three enlisted men to WIU. Before an ROTC program could be established, the Illinois Board of Higher Education had to grant approval for the development of a Department of Military Science, according to a 1967 issue of the Western Courier. The department and ROTC were housed in Simpkins Hall. The establishment of the WIU unit, and the 14 other units, marked the first time since 1952 that Army ROTC units were added at educational institutions.

The creation of the modern ROTC program began with the signing of the National Defense

Act of 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. The Army ROTC is the largest officer-producing organization with the American military, having commissioned more than 500,000-second lieutenants since its inception. Western has commissioned 1,017 cadets since Fall 1970. The first female ROTC cadet, Sherry Lynn Cappitelli, was commissioned in 1976.

The first leader of the WIU Department of Military Science and ROTC program was Col. Leo W. Manning, who was inducted into the U.S. Army in August 1941. Manning served in World War II in Europe and in Korea. Before reporting to WIU, he was the chief of the Civil Defense Division and chief of the Plans and Operations Division in the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, U.S. 2nd Army. He remained in Macomb following his 1970 retirement and was active in many community organizations.

Manning led the department and the Bulldog Battalion (now called the Leatherneck Battalion) ROTC program until 1970. He was followed by Lt. Col. Mitchell Corey (1970-73), Lt. Col. Lynn Coleman (1973-1976), Lt. Col. Donald Peters (1976-78), Col. LeRoy Twilley (1978-81), Col. Rayburn Stovall (1981-84), Col. Dale Schofield (1984-87), Lt. Col. Robert Fallis (1987-1991), Lt. Col. Dennis Skaggs (1991-93), Lt. Col. Stephen Reinhart '64 (1993-97), Lt. Col. Mark Larson (1992-2001), Lt. Col. Mick Cumbie (2001-06), Lt. Col. Steven Rosson (2006-09), Col. Thomas Seifert (2009-11), Lt. Col. John Drew (2011-14) and WIU ROTC Alumnus Lt. Col. Richard Helling '98 (2014-present). Helling is one of just three military science department chairs in the U.S. to return to his/her alma mater to lead the department.

Helling was an ROTC cadet at Western, graduating in 1998. He is also a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and has a master's in education from Kansas State. His tours of duty include numerous stations in the U.S.,

as well as in Bosnia, Italy and three combat tours in Iraq.

"I am very proud to be back at my alma mater as it had been a goal of mine for the last 10 years to come back home. I feel fortunate as the position is selected through a national Army board, which does not take alma maters into consideration," Lt. Col. Helling said. "When I took the position, I received an outpouring of support from former classmates and alumni wishing me well and sharing with me just how much the program meant to them."

From those early days in the 1960s and 1970s to Helling's time as a cadet in 1990s, the WIU ROTC program—and the U.S. program in general—saw many changes; and from his time as a student to leading the department today, he certainly sees some differences from 1998 to 2017. Shortly after his commissioning, in 1999, the department moved from Simpkins Hall, where it had been housed since 1968, to its current location in Horrabin Hall.

"Upon my return, I discovered that the program that I had affectionately known as the Bulldog Battalion in Simpkins Hall had not only moved locations, but had also begun to refer to itself as the Leatherneck Battalion," Helling added. "Despite the informal name change, the program's pride and traditions were still in place. The program has a certain spirit that is inclusive of all cadets, and enduring that has been passed down from class to class. While serving, every time I met fellow WIU alumni they always spoke with pride and fond memories of their time in

the program."

Over the years, the WIU Leatherneck Battalion has won numerous awards, including the prestigious General Douglas MacArthur Award for Best ROTC Battalion in the Midwest (1994, 2001, 2002), Resource and Cadet Management Excellence Award and Program Management Excellence Award (1995), Best Public University ROTC Program in the nation (1996), named among the top 15 percent of U.S. Army Cadet Commands 270 units nationwide (2001), Best Large Program in the 10th Brigade and a top 15 percent school (2005) and first in Pershing Rifles Invitational Drill Meet (2007, 2008).

"Western Illinois' ROTC program is in great shape," Helling said. "We have a wonderfully talented freshman class that will continue in the traditions of all of the great classes that have gone before them."

The WIU Department of Military Science and the Leatherneck Battalion will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018. An alumni reunion is planned in conjunction with the military ball, which will take place on March 24, 2018. More information will be available at wiu.edu and will be sent to alumni of the program closer to the anniversary date. ●



L-r: Lt. Col. Mark Larson, former WIU Military Science department chair; COEHS Dean Erskine Smith; Lt. Col. Richard D. Helling, WIU Military Science department chair; Macomb Mayor Michael Inman; and Robert Elliott '88 MA '96, president of WIU's ROTC Alumni Association, at the 100 years of ROTC nationwide celebration last April.

Western Women in the War

By Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89 MS '98

During World War II, some 350,000 women served in the U.S. Armed Forces. At Western Illinois University, several female members of the faculty and staff had illustrious military backgrounds. While this story cannot focus on each woman who was a part of the armed forces during WWII, WIU proudly salutes the women of Western who have served, and are serving, our great nation.

According to WIU English Professor Emeritus John Hallwas' '67 MA'68 book, "First Century: A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University," on May 28, 1943, Western's service flags for WWII were dedicated, and at that time they had 445 stars ... by Spring 1944 that figure had reached 572, including some three dozen women who served in the WACs, WAVEs, WASPS, Marines and Army Nurse Corps.



**Harriet (Knappenberger)
Wanamaker Fisher '40 MA '59**

***WASP Harriet (Knappenberger)
Wanamaker Fisher '40 MA '59, WIU
alumna and Logan School (Macomb)
teacher (1919-2005) ****

Fisher's first airplane ride was in 1930 with her uncle. Years later, she became a certified pilot and participated in the Women's Air Force Service Pilot (WASP) program during WWII. She was teaching school in Beardstown following her graduation from Western when the government came to the local airport for a civilian airline training scholarship. Five scholarships were awarded—one had to go to a female—and Fisher was that female recipient. She was then invited by Jaqueline Cochran (a pioneering 20th-century pilot who advocated for female aviators during WWII and was the first woman to break the sound barrier) to fly for the Air Force in WWII.

After passing all the physical standards, Fisher was sent to Texas in 1943 for cadet primary, basic and advanced ground and flight training. After passing, she received her Silver Wings. Fisher was a ferry pilot for planes and personnel from Love Field in Dallas. In October 1943, she was sent to glider school in Lubbock, and her job was then to tow future pilots who were training to fly gliders carrying 10 men and a jeep.

According to Fisher, about 25,000 females applied for the WASP program, and only 1,830 were accepted. From that number, 1,097 completed the training.

When WWII was over, so were her flying days. In 1944, she married George Wanamaker, her advanced flight instructor, and returned to Macomb where she taught second grade at Logan School for 26 years. Fisher also earned her master's degree from Western. Following George's death in 1971, she later married Stan Fisher '40. She remained a lifelong

member of the Military Pilots Association.

"We were the pioneers of aviation. We were the first women ever accepted into the military on the same basis of men. Now women are eligible to be appointed to the Air Force Academy and it's all because of us—the WASPs."

***WAC Ann Lamb (1924-2008),
professor and physical education
department chair***

Lamb served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943-44 in flight operations before earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education from Utah State University.

She came to Western in 1966 as an associate professor in women's physical education (WPE).

Lamb was acting chair of the department in 1967-68, and she served as chair of department from 1968-81. She also served as acting dean of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1970-72, while keeping her WPE administrative duties. During her early tenure (1971), old Brophy Hall (Morgan gymnasium) burned down and the present Brophy Hall was constructed.

Lamb was largely responsible for organizing women's intercollegiate athletics at Western and for appointing the first women's athletic director. Also, as chair and as a faculty member, she initiated numerous curricular changes in the undergraduate and graduate physical education programs.

***Sgt. First Class Lois Mills, associate
professor, Government Publications &
Legal Reference librarian (1917-2000)***

Mills was a member of the Women Army Corps (WAC) and served in the

U.S. Army from 1944-49 working in cryptography. According to a story in the then-Macomb Journal, as a WAC, Mills actually followed the troops during the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Mills began her WIU career as the librarian for the Lab School in 1954 and transferred to the campus library in 1968. She served as head of government publications and the legal reference section and was active in faculty governance until her retirement in 1987. Mills was the first woman to be named WIU Faculty Lecturer (1979). Prior to her tenure at WIU, she taught at Miles Consolidated School in Iowa from 1939-42 and Waterford Township Schools in Michigan from 1942 until she joined the armed forces in 1944.

On April 17, 2002, Mills was interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Officer Beth (Lenora) Mackey Stiffler, English chair and professor emeritus (1921-2015) **

After her 1943 graduation from Illinois Wesleyan University, Stiffler worked for a short time as an insurance investigator in St. Louis, MO, but as she has explained, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy WAVES "because a close cousin was in the boiler-room of the Arizona when the planes hit. My pilot cousin was missing in the Pacific. My brother was missing in the Atlantic. And I was in a good job in St. Louis, and thought

I could make a difference."

After completing officers' training, she was sent to live at Radcliffe College and study at Harvard College, and later at Smith College, and was then commissioned in the Supply Corps and stationed at Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Maryland. There she met her future husband, Lt. Harold S. Stiffler. The two were married in April 1945, and he left several days later for an overseas assignment.

She was transferred to the Naval Mine Warfare School in Yorktown, VA, as a Supply and Disbursing officer. There, she was responsible for large sums of money that were ordered from Washington each week and sent to a small bank in Yorktown. She delighted in telling stories like this one: "To get the money, I traveled by station wagon with an armed Marine on each front fender, one in the front



Beth (Lenora) Mackey Stiffler



Lois Mills

seat and another in the rear beside me. I was also armed. As soon as we entered the bank, all customers fled. I went to the safe where the little banker nervously counted out my money and was glad to see me on my way."

She began her education career in 1957 teaching second grade at the WIU Laboratory School. Several years later, she joined the English department, and taught junior high and high school English and journalism. At the lab school's closing, Stiffler joined the WIU English department in 1973, and eventually rose to the position of department chair in 1982. Stiffler was a founding member of the McDonough County League of Women Voters, a group in that day characterized by some as a "wild-eyed organization of radical women." Stiffler retired from Western in 1987. ●

* From Macomb Journal story by Darcie Dyer.

** From ON COMMUNITY: Social Commitment and One of the Last WWII WAVES by John Hallwas.

A Salute to the Western Women of WWII (from the 1943 and 1944 Sequel yearbooks)

- Lois Lucille Bishop
- Dorothy Graham
- Eunice Ihnen
- Irene Mae Jack
- Ruth Knox
- Maurine Lucille Kramm
- Ruth Minder
- Charlotte Irene Muder
- Marjorie Norma Mueller
- Lois Kathleen Shriver
- Hazel Madean Walters
- Mary Jane Welch
- Lillian Adella Williams
- Marjorie Ruth Williams
- Shirley Lee Witt

Pre-flight training at WIU



Lillian Willams of Quincy (IL)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Sports in the 1950s ... The Winning Teams

By Kathy Nichols '89 MA '94, WIU Archives; Darcie Shinberger '89 MS '98; and Brad Bainter '79 MS '83

With WWII in the past, the 1950s at Western were marked by unprecedented growth in student enrollment, largely due to the influx of male students back from the war and attending school on the G.I. Bill. One consequence of that increase in enrollment was a notable expansion of the campus, including the construction of a new football field named for Coach Ray "Rock" Hanson. That facility was the first new structure to be erected north of Murray Street. Another result was the revitalization of the school's athletic program. Renowned coaches central to Western's history took teams to new heights during this era.

Basketball

In Fall 1947, after a teaching career in Watseka, IL, Leroy "Stix" Morley '29 began a career at his alma mater that would last until his 1969 retirement. He was hired to coach basketball and track and to assist with football, as Hanson had retired that same year. During the 1950s, Morley coached a number of fine track athletes, including ones who set records, but it was in basketball where Morley truly made his mark. In 1954, his efforts, and those of his players, fell into place.

The 1953-54 Leatherneck basketball squad won its way into the 1954 NAIA tournament the hard way. After a third-place finish in the conference, Coach Morley and Assistant Coach Art Dufelmeier MS-Ed '52 guided the underdogs to a regional tournament title and their very first berth into the 32-team national tournament. Once they were on the big stage, the Leathernecks caught fire and defeated Morris Harvey, Southeastern Oklahoma, Southeastern Louisiana and two-time defending champion Southwest Missouri State, 78-75, in the semi-finals. The Leathernecks reached new heights by knocking off the highly-favored Springfield team, which had won the national title the past two seasons, to appear in the national championship game against St. Benedict's. On March 13, 1954, the Leathernecks played St. Benedict's Kansas College for the NAIA national title. While Western lost the final competition, the team that had ranked 27th in a field of 32 state champions was celebrated as winners.

The team returned from Kansas City to show off the nation's second-place trophy to a crowd of more than 2,000 fans that included Athletic Director Rock Hanson, President

Frank Beu and Macomb Mayor Ray Houtchon, who presented Coach Morley and his team with a key to the city. Gene Talbot '56 MS-Ed '61, Marshall Stoner '56 MS-Ed '60 and Lupe Rios '56 MS-Ed '62 led the Leathernecks statistically throughout the season. Talbot led the squad in scoring, averaging 16.7 points per outing, free throw percentage and field goal percentage. Stoner averaged 14.1 points per game, while Rios averaged 12.9. The Leathernecks as a whole averaged 74.9 points per game en route to the most successful season (at the time) in program history and a 19-9 record.

This achievement was just the beginning of what would be an amazing run for Western basketball under Morley. Over the next four seasons the team compiled a record of 104-10. They won the Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Conference four consecutive years and would go back to the national tournament in Kansas City each of those four years. Although Western did not win the national title, the 1954-55 team placed third at the NAIA national championship tournament, finishing with a 27-3 record. However, the best was saved for the last year of this five-year run of success.

A crowd gathers at the Macomb train depot to greet the returning champions from the 1954 team. Morley is holding the key to the city of Macomb; Rios is holding the second place trophy.



The 1957-58 team is the most successful basketball team in Western history and included another coaching legend, Head Baseball Coach Guy Ricci, as the assistant basketball coach. That team ran off 27 straight wins before losing the NAIA National Championship game to Tennessee A&I and finishing second in the nation. Those 27 straight wins are still the state record for consecutive wins for any college or university team in Illinois. The winning streak included season sweeps of Illinois State, Northern Illinois, Southern Illinois, Eastern Illinois, Central Michigan, and Eastern Michigan. Western broke the century mark three times that season, and it still ranks among the highest scoring teams in Western's history, averaging 81.3 points per game. The season might have ended undefeated and with the national championship if not for the unfortunate injury to star player Walt Moore '59 at the end of the semi-final game. Moore was unable to play in the championship game against Tennessee A&I, a team Western

had defeated earlier in the season at Morgan Gym.

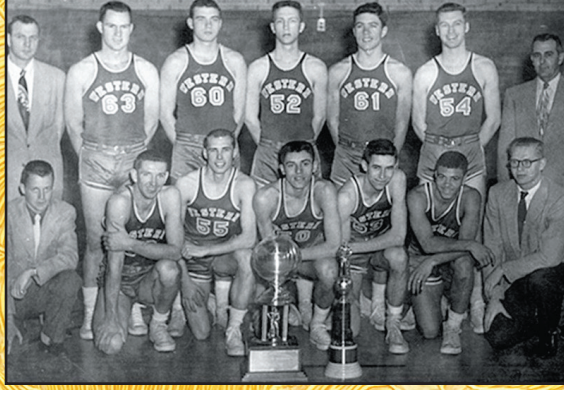
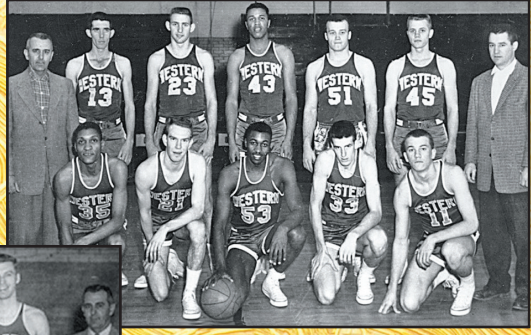
Many of the outstanding players from that era are in the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame, and they still hold records today. Among the great players of that era were Charlie Behrends '58, Bill McAfoos '61, Grady McCollum, Jack Milam '59 MS-Ed '63, Moore, Ron Nikceovich

'57, Rios, Bill Rogers '54, Chuck Schramm '57, Stoner, the Talbot brothers, Don '57 and Gene '50 MS-Ed '62, and Eugene Toms '61. McCollum played for the Harlem Globetrotters, and Moore and Rios coached at Western.

Home to Western basketball was Morgan Gym, which was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$180,000. At

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

1953-54 Basketball Team
 Back l-r: Art Dufelmeier, Bill Rogers, Jim Thornton, Don Talbot, Marshall Stone, Gene Talbot and Leroy Morley.
 Front l-r: Bill Hook, Ray Lump, Frank Hutt, Lupe Rios, Jim Chambers, Ike Wright and Larry Anderson. Not pictured: Tom Johnson, Dick Kelso and Joe Reynolds.



1957-58 Basketball Team
 Back l-r: Morely, Ted Printy, Gene Waibel, Eugene Toms, Don Resler, John Spafford and Guy Ricci.
 Front l-r: Walter Moore, Charles Behrends, Grady McCollum, Jack Milam and Bill McAfoos.

the time, it was the second largest gymnasium in Illinois and seated 3,000 people.

During those remarkable years in the 1950s, and for long after, Morgan Gym was kind of a temple, where Western students, faculty and alumni went to renew their college spirit.

The 1954 team was inducted into the WIU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. Players and coaches included Jim Chambers, Dufelmeier, Frank Hutt '55, Tom Johnson, Richard Kelso '56 MS-Ed '63, Raymond Lumppp '56 MS-Ed '58, Morley, Joe Reynolds, Rios, Rogers, Stoner, Don Talbot, Gene Talbot, Jim Thornton '55 MS-Ed '64 and Ike Wright.

The 1958 team was inducted into the WIU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. Players and coaches included Behrends, McAfoos, McCollum, Milam, Moore, Morley, Ted Printy '60, Donald Resler '58 MS-Ed '64, Guy Ricci, John Spafford '59, Toms and Gene Waibel '61.

Football

Former Cleveland Browns player Lou Saban was hired as Western's head football coach by WIU President Frank Beu in 1957. One year later, in 1958, Saban and his coaching staff, which included former Macomb High School all-state player and Leatherneck football standout Red Miller '50 MS-Ed '55 and former Northwestern Wildcats star Joe Collier MS-Ed '57, and former captain of the University of Illinois Rose Bowl championship team Art Dufelmeier, led the Leathernecks

to their first IIAC championship since 1949. Western's finest player that year was running back Larry Garron, who later played 12 seasons with the Boston Patriots (playing in Boston under Head Coach Saban and Assistant Coaches Miller and Collier).

The following year was even better, the first undefeated, untied season in Western's history, with a record of 9-0. Some of the opponents were humiliated, such as Illinois State University, for example, with a final score of 58-0. Fullback Bill Larson was named to the Little All-American team, and Saban was chosen NAIA Coach of the Year. Player Leroy Jackson, the fastest back in the nation, led Saban's 1958 and 1959 teams, and in his last two years, averaged more than eight yards per carry, earning All-American honors in football. Jackson was drafted in the first round of the NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns in 1962.

Saban's success at Western opened the doors for him for a long and illustrious career in athletics, and not just football. He served as the head coach for the Boston Patriots after leaving Western. He also served as the head coach for the Buffalo Bills twice and the Denver Broncos. Edgerson Booker, who played for Saban at Western, had a long and outstanding career for Saban during his first stint with the Bills. His collegiate coaching career included stops as the head coach at Northwestern, University of Maryland, University of Miami, Army and the University of Central Florida. He had served on the

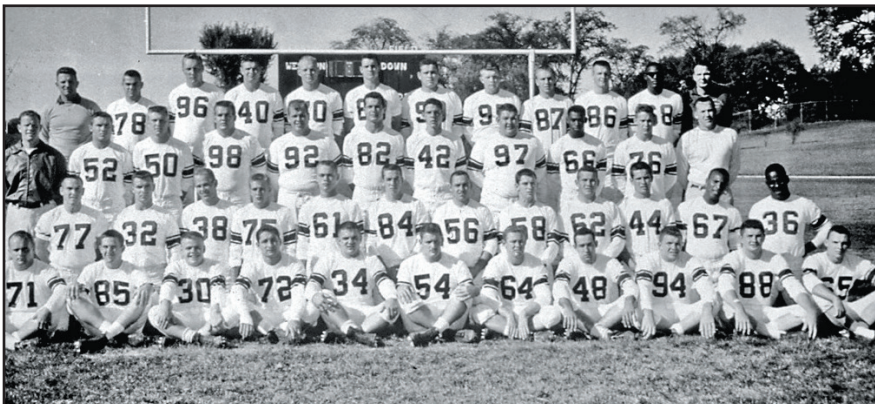
coaching staff at Northwestern with George Steinbrenner in 1955 and that friendship led to Saban first being an executive for Steinbrenner at Tampa Downs racetrack followed by one year as the president of the New York Yankees in 1980. With all those stops in his career, Saban's wife said when he recently passed away, that Western was always their favorite place.

Macomb native and Western alumnus Red Miller left Western with Saban and served as an assistant coach for several professional football teams before he was named head coach of the Denver Broncos in January 1977. One year later, Miller led the Broncos to their first Super Bowl, where they lost to the Dallas Cowboys. That Super Bowl forever endeared Miller to the Bronco fans in Denver.

"I still vividly remember playing basketball against Denver University in Denver shortly after the Broncos lost the Super Bowl in 1978," said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services and former Leatherneck Basketball player Brad Bainter '79 MS '83. "Red walked into the gym and it was like time stood still for a bit, and there wasn't a basketball game going on because of the ovation for Coach Miller."

To this day, Miller attends the alumni events in Denver and still is in demand for media interviews. You can always count on Miller to lead all those in attendance in his rousing version of the school fight song.

Joe Collier was an assistant under Saban and followed him to the Boston Patriots from Western. After three seasons, he left to head to the Buffalo Bills, where he became the head coach in 1966 after Saban resigned. In 1969, Collier started what would be a nearly 20-year tenure with Denver Broncos. He was the defensive coordinator and key in developing the Orange Crush defense that was instrumental in the Denver Broncos Super Bowl trips, including their first Super Bowl in 1978 under Miller. He retired in 1992 after a short stint with the New England Patriots.



1959 Leatherneck Football Team

The 1959 football team was inducted into the WIU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. Players and coaches included Bill Adams '62, James Adams '63, Jack Atchason, Don Barrett MS '61, Urban Baum '62 MS '66, Jerry Blew '62, Tom Brabender, John Bush '60 MS-Ed '67, Dick Chamberlain, Eugene Christmann, Joe Collier MS-Ed '57, Edward Colville, Warren Dew '61 MS-Ed '63, Tom Dinardo '61, Dufelmeier, Booker Edgerson, Roger Elliot, Jerry Fornoff '61, Richard Franz '63, Lawrence Garron, Fred Helsey, John Hilford '62, Leroy Jackson, Doug Kay '61, Don Kille, Bill Larson, Joseph Lashmet '66, Jim Lodico '62 MS-Ed '75, Wayne Lunak '61 MS-Ed '63, Mike McFarland '61, Miller, Ronald Moor, Dale Mott, Gary Mott, Lonnie Pangborn, Gilford Pohl '62, Donald Pollard '62, George Robb, Lou Saban, Dwight Sellers '61, Richard Snowden '61, Bill Tonione, Marvin Vandersnick, Denny Wallon '63, Pat Walsh '64, Dan Washkevich '62 MS-Ed '66, Jack White '60, Bill Wilkins, Don Woodall, Jim Yerbic and William Zavadil '61 MS-Ed '66.

Golf

Western's golf teams started building a juggernaut with the arrival of Harry Mussatto '51 in 1951. They won the Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Conference golf titles for



1959 Golf Team
Back l-r: Ed Ehrhart, Jim King, Tom Stuart, Bill Brick, Coach Harry Mussatto. Front l-r: Rich Gleacher, Al Barkow, Emil Esposito and John Ryskiewicz.

nine consecutive years from 1951-59. This streak culminated with the golf team winning the 1959 NAIA National Championship. This was the first Western athletic team to win a national championship. It was also the first team outside of Texas to win the NAIA national golf championship.

Jim King won the individual national championship and went on to a professional career. Eric Gleacher went on to serve on the executive committee of the USGA and had a successful career in business and as a philanthropist. His financial support led to the expansion of Western's nine-hole course into an extremely challenging 18-hole course named in honor of Harry Mussatto at Gleacher's request.

From 1952-70, Mussatto's golf teams completed the longest home winning streak in the nation with 95 consecutive wins on the home course. The 1962 team also won the NAIA National Golf Championship.

From 1978-84, the Leatherneck golf team won seven straight AMCU-8 Conference Championships. Mussatto's last team in 1984 was the 55th team title in his distinguished coaching career.

Mussatto retired from Western in 1985 and passed away Dec. 30, 1998.

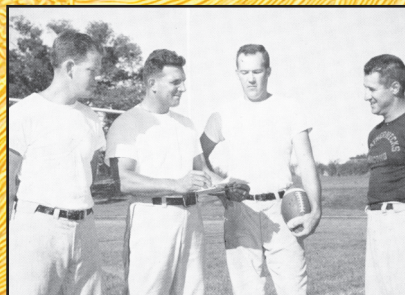
THE KEY PLAYERS

Saban and Ray Hanson



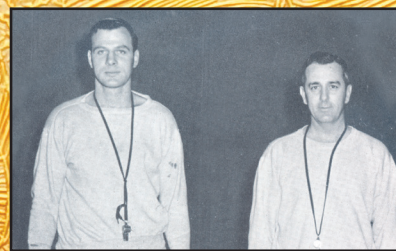
Former Cleveland Browns player Lou Saban was hired as Western's head football coach by WIU President Frank Beu in 1957.

Red Miller



L-r: Miller, Saban, Joel Collier and Guy Ricci

L-r: Art Dufelmeier and Stix Morley



Western's 18-hole golf course was renamed the Harry Mussatto Golf Course in 2001.

Mussatto was inducted into the WIU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988, and the 1959 golf team was inducted in 1998. Players included Al Barkow, Bill Brick '63 MS-Ed '66, Emil Esposito, Eric Gleacher, John Goetz, James King and John Ryskiewicz '60. ●

Editor's Note: With excerpts from "First Century: A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University" by English Professor Emeritus John Hallwas.

From the Beaches at Iwo Jima

Marines honor WWII veteran John Moon on his centennial birthday

On March 28, 2016, several Young Marines returned from the beaches at Iwo Jima, Japan with a vial of volcanic sand they brought back expressly for one of Macomb's own, John Moon '39.

Moon, a WWII veteran and the oldest known living Iwo Jima survivor, received numerous accolades and gifts of appreciation on April 1, 2016, during his 100th birthday celebration at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1921.

At least 200 people attended the event, including members of the community, fellow veterans and the Midwest Central Young Marines to honor Moon for his service and help him celebrate his centennial birthday.

The Young Marines, located in Deer Creek, IL, is "a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school," according to the website. The group makes an annual trip to Iwo Jima called the "Reunion of Honor." During the reunion, Japanese and American delegates commemorate the event by escorting their Iwo Jima veterans back to the beaches where the iconic battle took place.

VFW Commander Sam Danner opened the evening by speaking directly to Moon. "On behalf of the Navy and myself, I apologize for landing you on Iwo Jima," he joked.

The battle at Iwo Jima, however, was no joke. As Vietnam veteran and VFW member Dan Sigwart took the podium to speak, he described it as "one hellacious battle" in which 26,000 U.S. Marines and 21,000 members of the Imperial Japanese Army were killed, wounded, or went missing in 35 days. One third of the Marine battle deaths in the Pacific occurred on Iwo Jima, he said.

"The Japanese were not on Iwo

Jima," he said. "They were inside it, they were underneath it, (in) tunnels. Mr. Moon and the third, fourth and fifth Marine divisions dug them out." Within two weeks of his arrival to the beach 71 years ago, Moon was seriously wounded and evacuated. He was later awarded the Purple Heart.

"Iwo Jima is the high-water mark for the Marine Corps as far as epitomizing bravery in combat," Sigwart said. "... I asked Mr. Moon, 'Did you see the flag go up (on Mt. Suribachi)?' ... he told me, 'No, I was too far down the beach, there was too much smoke, and you don't stick your head up to look for a flag.'"

It was to these shores that Lucas Ward, National Young Marine of the Year, and several other members of the Young Marines went to collect the sand for Moon during their duty of escorting other Iwo Jima veterans to the beaches during the annual Reunion of Honor. "I don't know the words to describe the emotions," Ward said about his experience at Iwo Jima. "It's unlike anything you'll ever feel. It's just surreal to be on the island with these men who, in their prime,

gave their lives and were willing to sacrifice everything on that island. To go back there with them and take that journey with them, it's beyond anything I've ever experienced." Ward is in his last year of high school. He said he is in the process of enlisting with the Marines. He hopes to get a degree in criminal justice and start a career in law enforcement.

The Young Marines is the only youth organization that goes to Iwo Jima once a year—the only time Americans get to go to Iwo Jima, according to Young Marines National Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bill Davis, who came from Washington D.C. to present the sand the group collected. He said he received word from Bill Smith, chairman of the VFW board, about Moon's service record and upcoming centennial about a month before the annual trip. "The timing could not have been better," he said. "... immediately, we said this is something we've gotta do. And it didn't matter how we did it, we just had to do it."

They came up with the idea to



bring Moon a flag, sand from the beach at Iwo Jima and a birthday card.

“It just kinda grew from there. We just thought it was the right thing to do. Not as an organization, but in honor of what he did. And 100 years old! What a milestone ... When you think about how it came about, the fact that it just so happened that the chairman of the board of an organization that honors veterans—and oh, by the way, just happens to be the only youth organization that goes to Iwo Jima every year, and only once a year do Americans get to go to Iwo Jima, it all worked out the way it’s supposed to. The timing couldn’t have been better ... Lucas and I just got back last Monday.”

Along with fellow veterans at the VFW, he and the other officers from the Washington, D.C. and Deer Creek headquarters presented Moon with a series of gifts, accolades and commemorative plaques honoring him for his service and celebrating his centennial. The youth from the Young Marines presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Eight-year-old Young Marine Rowan Parkhurst helped Moon cut the birthday cake, which was decorated with an image of a bald eagle.

“I never thought I’d get so much from crawling on my belly on that little island,” Moon joked during the evening festivities.

In his civilian life following the



war, Moon went on to open first the S & J Cafe with his friend, Simon, Gingrich on the west side of the downtown square, and an Andes Candies store on the east side of the square about 20 years later. He finished his career by teaching drivers education at Macomb High School in the 1980s, according to Macomb Mayor Mike Inman. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the community for Moon’s contributions throughout his lifetime.

Several people expressed admiration for Moon’s energy and

high level of fitness, saying he bowls twice a week and has been known to do pushups regularly. Cassidy Bagwell, a former Young Marine gunnery sergeant from Havana, said Moon “did pushups in front of everybody” during a visit to her high school on Veterans Day two years ago.

Moon has two living children and three grandchildren. ●

**Reprinted with permission from the McDonough County Voice/writer: Michelle Langhout.*



L-r: Lt. Gen. Vince Stewart '81, WIU President Jack Thomas and Moon.

Still singing his heart out at almost 101

On Jan. 25, Moon, who will turn 101 on April 3, made headlines when he gave an impressive performance of the national anthem at a WIU Women’s Basketball game.

To hear Moon sing, visit: bit.ly/2m8j81E.



Photo courtesy of the WIU Visual Production Center





VINCENT STEWART: GOLD STAR CAREER

By Darcie Dyer Shinberger '89 MS '98



Last Week it was Winter

When Lt. Gen. Vince Stewart '81 was in Australia on Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) business, it was winter. One week later, he was in Tel Aviv, where it was summer. It was at that moment he thought if he ever wrote a book, the title would be "Last Week it was Winter." And should that book about his life be made into a movie, Denzel Washington would play the lead, of course.

Lt. Gen. Stewart, a Western Illinois University history graduate, became the 20th director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance in January 2015. How did this gentleman who was born in Jamaica make his way through the ranks of the Marine

Corps to lead the national defense agency in D.C.? There's only one answer: hard work.

"When I was 13, my family moved from Jamaica, where I was born, to the north side of Chicago. And it was a shock. From tropical to Chicago in November. I played football in high school, and I was actually recruited to play at Western. That was all the beginning of my journey," Stewart said.

He played football at Western until his sophomore year, and then decided he didn't wish to continue playing. Instead, he worked as a student worker in Intercollegiate Athletics, and the summer following his junior year, Stewart decided to attend Marine Officers training school.

"I had the tremendous advantage of going to Ft. Knox for six weeks for Marine Corps Officers training. I

was ready to give back and serve my country," he said. "At the summer training, I was challenged. Every day I was there there was a great deal of demanding physical and mental challenges, but I felt more capable with each day. I was a part of something much bigger than me."

Stewart returned to WIU to finish up his degree in history, and following graduation, he entered the Marine Corps, with the intention of serving three or four years.

"I had no vision then of serving for 20 or 30 years. I thought it would be a four-year gig and I'd get out and do something else. I honestly thought I'd end up coaching football," Stewart recalled. "I don't know if I ever really decided this would be a lifetime career. But they [the Marines] just kept giving me more opportunities and challenges. I probably spent



15-20 years trying to leave, but they kept offering me even greater opportunities.

"I am still surprised that I'm still doing this," he laughed. "My battalion leader laughed at me when I told him I was leaving, early in my career, and said I was a corporate man and I was promoted to a major. My colonel, my commander, refused to sign my resignation papers, and I was promoted to brigadier general. When I reached that rank, I really thought about my career. The fact that they (my superiors) continued to find meaningful work for me over the years continues to confound me."

Stewart's principal command tours over the years are numerous, including Tank Platoon Leader with Company A, 1st Tank and Executive Officer, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion

at Camp Pendleton; Company Commander with Company I, Marine Support Battalion, Adak, Alaska; and Company Commander with Headquarters and Service Company, 2d Radio Battalion; Company Commander with Company E, Marine Support Battalion, Misawa, Japan; Commanding Officer, 1st Intelligence Battalion at Camp Pendleton; Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division, at Camp Lejeune; and Commanding General, Marine Forces Cyberspace. Additionally, Lt. Gen. Stewart has held a variety of Intelligence staff positions throughout his career.

As the director of the DIA, Stewart serves as a principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense and to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters of military intelligence. He

also chairs the Military Intelligence Board, which coordinates activities of the defense intelligence community. His day usually begins at 5 a.m.

"I check my emails and the news right away, and I'm in my office by 6 or 6:30 a.m. Sometimes I hit the gym in the morning, but I usually hit the ground running each day," he explained. "There are daily briefings to attend, and numerous meetings. I also engage in quite a bit of domestic and foreign travel."

Stewart oversees 16,000 employees in 140 countries and 30 states.

"There's a lot of travel involved," he added with a laugh. "But there are also lots of opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of others."

"When I was a colonel, a young man in the Corps reached out to me about how I changed the trajectory of his career. He wanted to reenlist,

but the bureaucracy got in the way. I worked to get him an extension. He ended up staying in the Marine Corps and eventually becoming an officer. Like a coach, I have the ability to touch lives in a positive fashion," Stewart said.

Stewart's military decorations are an indication of the impact he has made. Those decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with one gold star; the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star; the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, with two gold stars; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; the Combat Action Ribbon; the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal and various unit awards.

In May 2016, Stewart was named a WIU Distinguished Alumni Award

recipient and returned to his alma mater to be recognized for his many achievements.

"It's amazing when I look back at my career and realize I was a "C" student in college. I think that's a story to tell. Average students, those with a "C" average, may think they might not succeed, but I'm here to tell them they will be okay once they find what drives them. Find out what excites you and throw that passion behind it," Stewart said. "To be invited back to my alma mater to be recognized when I was a pretty nondescript average student, it's incredible and it tells a story. It all worked out."

In addition to his bachelor's degree from Western, Stewart earned master's degrees in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, RI, and in National Resource Strategy

from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington, DC. His military education spans numerous fields, including the Basic School; Armor Officer Basic Course; Basic Communications Officer Course; Cryptologic Division Officer's Course; School of Advanced Warfighting; Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Amphibious Warfare School and Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College.

Despite his many accolades, awards, career successes and decorations, when asked what is the one thing he is afraid of, Stewart simply said, "failure."

"People think I'm confident and self-assured. They may see me as arrogant. But failure is something I am afraid of because there is so much riding on what I do," he explained.



WIU ROTC Commissioning 2016

"There are a lot of firsts surrounding me, and those firsts come with a lot of pressure. A lot of people are asking how I got the job; a lot of people are watching. I bristle when it's mentioned I'm the first African-American to hold this post. We haven't come far enough as a nation where this is not, and should not, be an issue. But since it is, I'm going to be the first African-American in this position to either do well or to fail. And I am going to choose to do well and not fail."

Stewart added there were a few other instances in his career where there was fear: jumping out of an airplane for the first time, and the combat zone.

"But you learn to adjust and do your very best. You have to. Failure is not an option when jumping out of an airplane, in the combat zone or

leading a defense agency," he pointed out.

The pressure of doing well, and leading an agency that holds responsibility for the nation's safety, can be stressful - that goes without saying - but Stewart said over the years he has gotten very good at separating his work life from his home life. He has to for his sake, and that of his family's.

"While I may be three-star lieutenant general at work, my wife is one rank higher. It's her house," he said with a chuckle. "I can't come in and act like the boss. This makes it very easy to separate work from home."

In his spare time, which really isn't much, Stewart likes to collect U.S. coins and read. His favorite genre? Historical biographies.

"Hamilton's story is like mine.

Not as harsh of course, but he was a shaper of this country," Stewart said.

What's next for this decorated veteran and loyal Marine? It's anyone's guess, including his.

"I don't know what's next. Once I retire from this career, I'll still work somewhere [when asked about politics, Stewart said definitively, 'never politics ... I can't imagine putting myself or my family through that grind']. But I could see myself doing some kind of consulting work, or talking to young people who may be disillusioned about their lives," he said. "I like telling my story. It couldn't happen in other countries. Mine is a true American story.

"We came to this country with nothing. We came with only the American dream of having a better life," Stewart concluded. "But if you work hard and commit to your values, it all works out." ●



WHAT I KNOW NOW

**Tom Carper '82: Vietnam veteran, entrepreneur, politician,
Amtrak board member**

**MOST VISUAL
ARTS ARE BEST
EXPERIENCED IN
PUBLIC PLACES.**

Galleries are predictable with everything just so. Public displays offer everything else.

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO
KNOW WHAT I DON'T
KNOW.**

Once I recognize that there are things I don't know or understand and discover what they are, I make better decisions.

**A COMPREHENSIVE
COLLEGE EDUCATION
EXPERIENCE
SHOULD INCLUDE
COMMUNITY
INTERACTION.**

I worked for, and with people, we called "townies": Bill Gelvin and the guys at Modern Home & Appliances; as a University Union student janitor with Howard Settles, Fred Shughart, Harold Frowein, Evelyn Pogue and Barbara Heap '60; and with Gene Lewis and Tom Barry at the Elks Club. They all treated me fairly and trusted me, and from them I learned important things about work and life.

Photo courtesy of the WIU Visual Production Center

OUR COUNTRY WOULD BE WELL-SERVED BY MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE OR DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

It would be a small price to pay for the privilege of citizenship.

YOU CAN FEEL BAD ABOUT SOME THINGS.
Don't feel bad about feeling bad.

AS I GET OLDER, HISTORY BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT.

I can apply more context to events by understanding past decisions. I think presidents and members of Congress could use strategic history lessons.

PEOPLE WHO SAY 60 IS THE NEW 40 ARE NOT 60.

LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

The turn-out for local elections is shamefully low. The government closest to the people has the lowest voter turnout. Go figure!

THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE COVER FROM MARCH 29, 1976 IS CORRECT.

Google New Yorker magazine cover "A view of the world from 9th Ave."

GETTING UP BEFORE DAWN TO SHOVEL SIDEWALKS BEFORE SCHOOL WAS A GOOD THING.

Builds character, maybe. Do I appreciate the quiet and beauty of a new snow before the sun is up? You bet.

BEST PRE-EMPLOYMENT DISCUSSION. A 1969 INTERVIEW SET THE TONE FOR MY OWN HIRING DECISIONS.

"We are a profit making organization and we want you to work it like it was your own." July 1969, Triple S Bar, Eatontown, NJ. George, Pete and Nick Samarus, owners. Just back from Vietnam, Nick interviewed me standing by the cash register in the liquor section. He



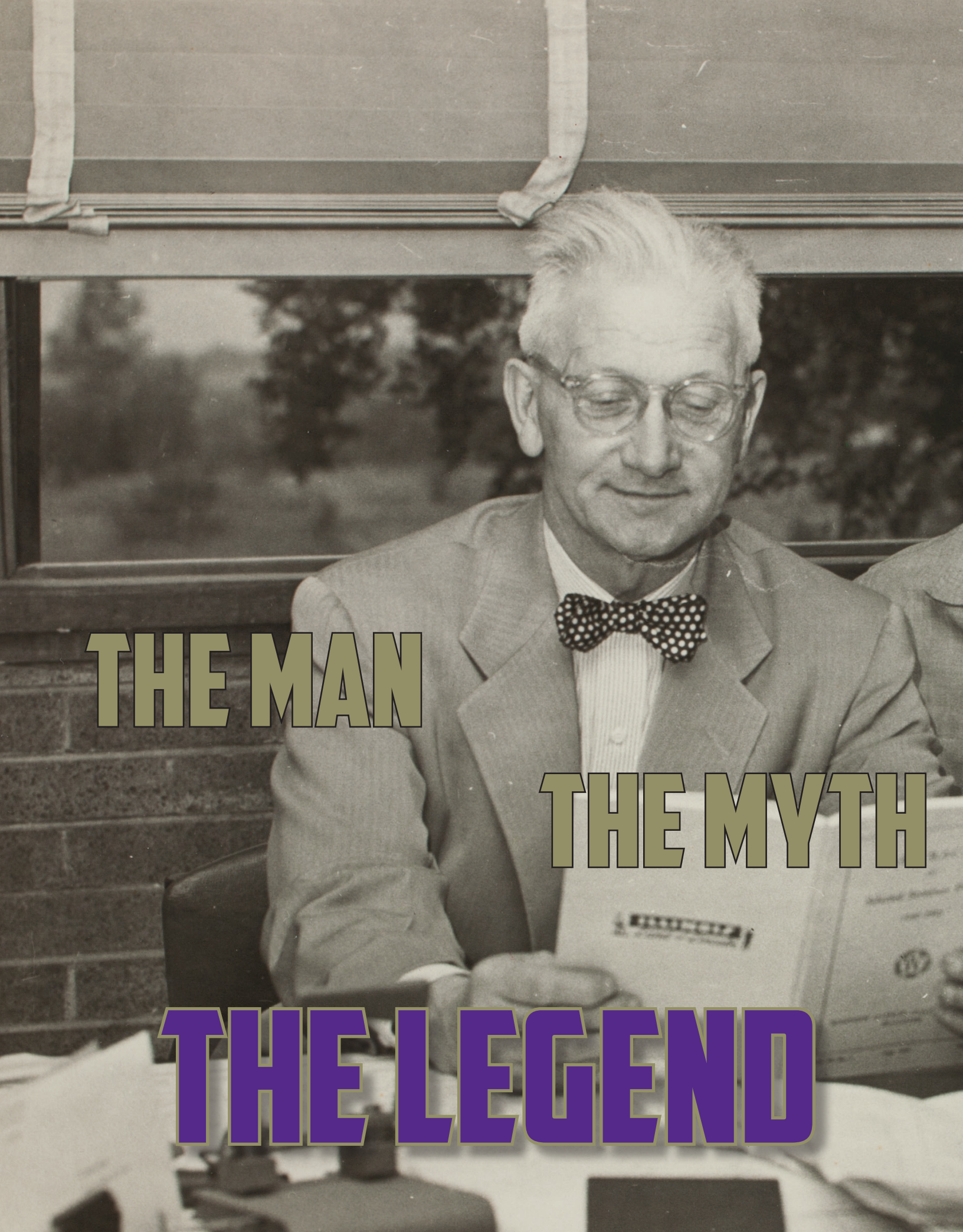
Carper at Fort Leonard Wood (MO) basic training in July 1967.

said, "Work for a couple weeks with all the brothers and we'll see how it goes." I passed the test and used that speech countless times in my own businesses.

FACULTY FROM THE PAST FROM WIU ARE IMPORTANT TO WHO I AM TODAY.

Music appreciation course Fall 1964, sitting in the back row with fellow football teammates, the professor said, "I know you aren't music majors and are not into this now, but try to appreciate certain parts." I did and still do. Loren Logsdon, in English, made "Dandelion Wine" one of my favorite books. In geography, Professors Martin, Gabler, Griffin and Caspell made me understand that rocks, mountains, hills, valleys and neighborhoods are more than they appear. Since I had taken a meteorology class, I had a meteorology textbook sent to me in Vietnam to better understand the weather. Jerry Banninga, in speech and communications, made me remember to this day the common fallacies in reasoning. ●





THE MAN

THE MYTH

THE LEGEND



RAY "ROCK" HANSON

From the Fighting Teachers to the Fighting Leathernecks—one man's everlasting impact on Western Illinois University

By Darcie Dyer
Shinberger '89 MS '98

For 90 years, Western Illinois University has been known as the Leathernecks or the Fighting Leathernecks, but how did the University go from the "Fighting Teachers" to the Leathernecks? There's just one answer ... because of one man.

Legendary World War I and World War II hero and decorated Marine Corps Colonel Ray "Rock" Hanson began his long tenure at Western in 1926. It was because of Hanson's determination and persistence, along with his Marine Corps legacy, that helped secure The Fighting Leathernecks as WIU's team name in 1927. Today, Western remains the only public school in the U.S. to use the Leathernecks as its nickname.

The Man, The Myth, The Legend

Hanson, who coached football, baseball and basketball, served as director of the physical education department and is distinguished as the longest-serving athletic director at



Western.

But his story begins far before his 1926 start at Western. Hanson was born on Oct. 5, 1895 in Vasa, MN, and his family later moved to Red Wing, MN, where the young Hanson became a high school sports legend as he earned letters in football, basketball and baseball. According to the book, "First Century. A Pictorial History of Western Illinois University" by WIU English Professor and Library Archivist Emeritus John Hallwas '67 MA '68, Hanson also held the role of "player-coach" for his high school, and he led the basketball team

to a state championship in his senior year. After working for one year as a railway secretary following high school graduation, Hanson joined the Marine Corps during World War I. He was assigned to a unit—later called the Devil Dogs—that would forever be a legend through Marine Corps history, the 96th Company, 1st Replacement Battalion, Sixth Regiment. Hanson survived the Battle of Belleau Wood, and he was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in saving the life of a fellow soldier who had been seriously wounded.

Hanson had moved through the ranks of private, corporal, sergeant, gunnery sergeant, and second lieutenant, and he won numerous medals and honors: the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal. Other than the burns and gassing, for which he earned the Purple Heart, Hanson had not been wounded. As WIU Professor Alfred J. Lindsey's '54 MS-Ed '60 book, "Rock Hanson, The Life of a

Hero," describes, he had, however, been subject to several close calls. Machine gun bullets had pierced his helmet and had gone completely through his canteen. Part of his rifle had been demolished by a rifle shell. He had shipped home a part of a shell casing that went through his backpack and lodged in the handle of his razor, thus saving him from serious injury.

After the war's end, Hanson set back for home in July 1919. Two years later, he enrolled at Springfield College in Massachusetts, and continued to excel in athletics at the collegiate level, as he played football, basketball and baseball. According to the Hallwas book, it was at Springfield College where he became friends with world-renown Notre Dame Football Coach Knute Rockne. Hanson enrolled in a football fundamentals class with Rockne and studied under the fabled coach. Following Hanson's graduation, he worked as a coach at a Connecticut high school for one year before Rockne helped him secure a coaching position at Western Illinois State Teachers College. Hanson was hired by President Walter Morgan as the head of the Physical Education Department for Men, and as such, he was the football, basketball and baseball coach.

"When talking to alumni throughout the years who had the privilege of knowing, and playing for, Rock, Col. Hanson's goal was to make the Marine ethic a central focus at Western," said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79 MS '83.

Among other things, Hanson introduced "the Notre Dame style" of football at Western, which involved fakes and handoffs from the quarterback to the other backs. In writing about the traits that a football player should have, Hanson stated, "A player should demonstrate leadership, fearlessness, self-confidence, enthusiasm and 'ginger'." He added that in any athletic contest "the battle is not always to the strong, but to the active, the vigilant and brave."

As Hallwas described in the First



In high school, Hanson earned letters in football, basketball and baseball.

Century Book: Hanson also had a magnetic personality that drew people to him. His pep talks before games, delivered in the Knute Rockne style of blatant emotionalism, soon became legendary, and it was wasn't long before he was referred to as "Rock" by people on campus ... As his teams improved and word of his war record got out, a sort of personality cult formed around him and he came to symbolize the Western athletic tradition."

During his tenure at Western, war broke out again, and with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Hanson found himself back at Marine headquarters in Quantico, VA.

From Lindsey's book, the text from a letter Hanson wrote to President Morgan appears: "Sixteen years at Western has meant a great deal to me and it is not an easy task for me to

To the right is a letter sent to the USMC Major General Commander from William A. Weaver (from "Rock Hanson: The Life of a Hero," by Alfred A. Lindsey).

pull up and leave. However, I do know my country comes first. Naturally, the best years of my life are left at Western—sixteen of them. My spirit and enthusiasm has been for you and the school and its march forward. I tried my best at all times."

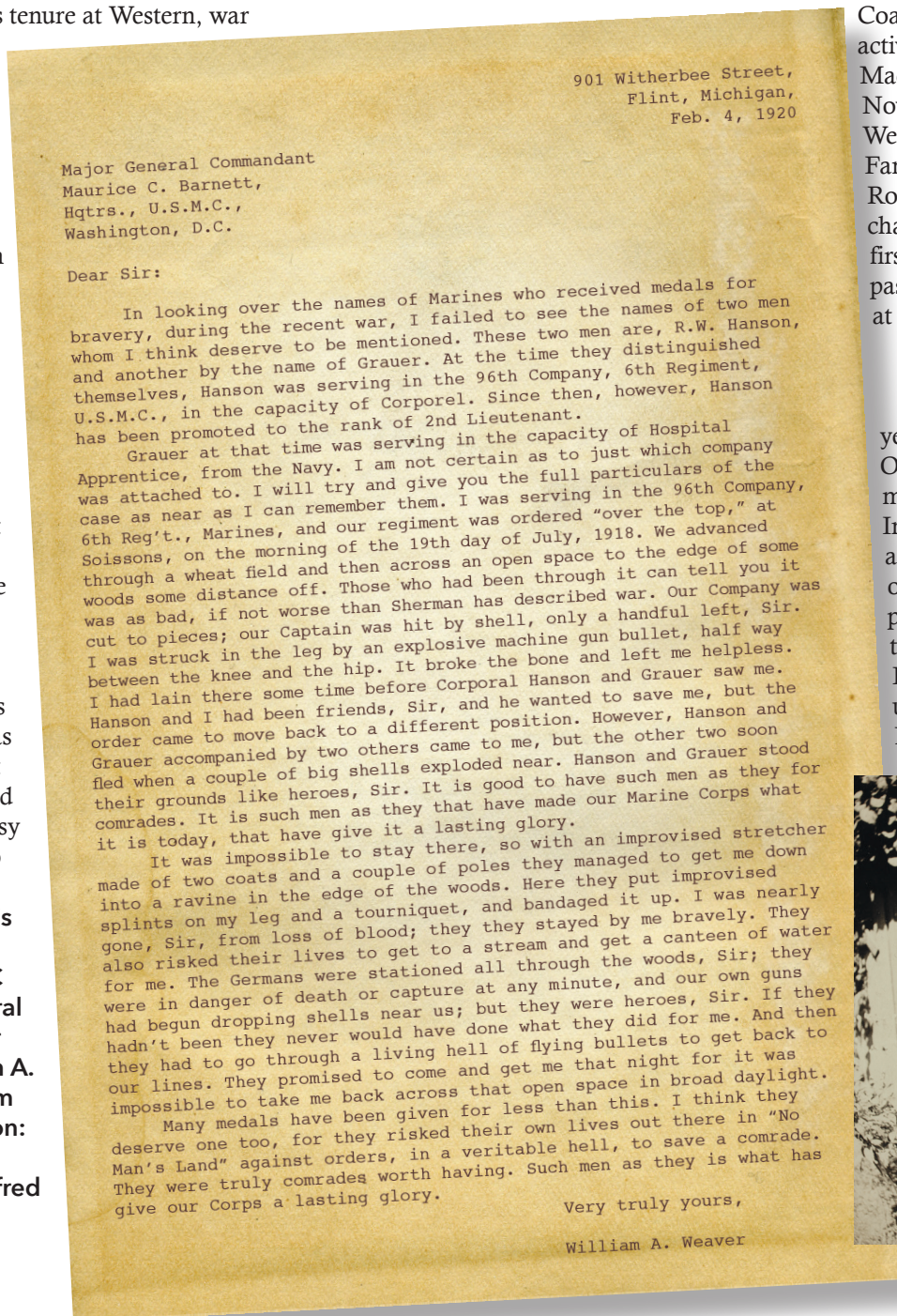
Because of his distinguished performance in World War I and his unflinching energy, Rock's responsibility during WWII included building morale among the troops. This led to friendships with such famous movie

stars and entertainers as Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Ginger Rogers, Rita Hayworth, Tyrone Power, baseball star Joe DiMaggio and boxing champ Jack Dempsey.

Following the end of the war, the then-51-year-old Hanson was back on campus by February 1946. President Frank Beu appointed Hanson as athletic director and physical education department chair. He retired in 1964 after a 38-year career at Western. Even after his retirement, Coach Hanson remained active at WIU and in the Macomb community. On Nov. 16, 1974, when the Western Sports Hall of Fame formally opened, Rock was named a charter member of the first induction class. He passed away Jan. 4, 1982, at the age of 86.

Love and Marriage

During his senior year of college, on Oct. 25, 1925, Hanson married Gladys Minor. In 1930, Ray adopted and changed the name of Gladys' son [by a previous marriage] to Edward French Hanson. "Eddie," upon his arrival in Macomb, enrolled in





Showing off the Silly Side

the 10th grade at the Training School. After almost 30 years of marriage, on May 1, 1953, Gladys passed away. As a long-time resident of Macomb, Gladys had been the past president of the Macomb American Legion Auxiliary and was a former member of the Salvation Army Board. She was also a member of the Eastern Star.

In December 1963, a month before his retirement and after being widowed for a decade, he married

Dorothy Ruggles in the storied Little Chapel on the University of Iowa campus. Dorothy passed away on April 10, 1992, 10 years after Rock's death. Dorothy was a dietician in the Army during World War II, and served as chief dietician at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Iowa City for 12 years. She was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church.

Honoring the Legacy of a Legend

In 1950, during Hanson's time as athletic director, the new Western football field was named in his honor. On Sept. 23, 1950, the dedication of the field took place at halftime of the game with Central Michigan.

Today, Hanson's name lives on at Western not only through the football field name and the University's nickname, but also through Col. Rock III (aka Rocky), an English bulldog and Western's mascot, who is named in honor of this war hero and true example of a #TraditionofTough.

The first English Bulldog, a symbol of the U.S. Marine Corps, arrived at WIU in September 1959 to serve



President Walter Morgan and Hanson

as the first official Leathernecks mascot. A few weeks later, the Student Government Association Executive Council selected the name Col. Rock for the new mascot from more than 200 entries in a naming contest. WIU student Richard Stevenson submitted the winning name.

In December 2015, the WIU Foundation, in cooperation with the University Bookstore and Western's licensing agent, Learfield Licensing, created and unveiled the Ray "Rock" Hanson Vintage Collection, which features vintage Western logos that were in place during Hanson's tenure from 1926 through 1964.

"The iconic symbol of Western's past is very much a part of the present, through the Leathernecks nickname to the school's mascot, and the Ray "Rock" Hanson Vintage Collection. These are just two ways that we can continue to pay tribute to a great man and to remember our legacy," said Bainter, who spearheaded the effort to further recognize and honor the famed Marine Corps colonel and World War I and World War II hero.

Another project is in the works to recognize Hanson, thanks to funding provided by WIU alumni Jackie '85





MS-Ed '94 and Dave Thompson '72, is the Col. Ray "Rock" Hanson memorial statue project. The larger-than-life statue, which will be created by WIU Assistant Professor of Art Duke Oursler, will be placed near the north entrance of Hanson Field, the home of the Fighting Leathernecks football team.

While Col. Hanson has been gone for nearly 30 years, laid to rest in Macomb's Oakwood Cemetery, his legacy continues each and every day at Western Illinois University.

As we say at WIU ... "Every Day Is a Great Day to Be a Leatherneck." ●

All photos courtesy of WIU Archives.

Groundbreaking at Hanson Field



Student

Spotlight

Emily Manley, senior broadcasting major

“You are never fully dressed without a smile.” I learned this motto at a very young age. My name is Emily Manley, known as the girl with a big smile. I’m a senior broadcasting major with a double minor of marketing and business at Western Illinois University. Wow, that is a hard thing to say; where did the time go?

I’m from Highland, IL, a small community of about 9,000 people. It’s 25 miles east of downtown St. Louis, which means I am fanatic about the Cardinals and Blues.

I come from a family of four. My sister is a junior in college, and yes we are too close in age. The dog you see in the picture is my little buddy; her name is Maggie! My family means the world to me; without them I would be no where near where I am today.

When I was a junior in high school, I never would have thought I was going to be a Leatherneck. At that time, the plan was to be a Mizzou Tiger. My mom heard of the great broadcasting program at Western and said we should check

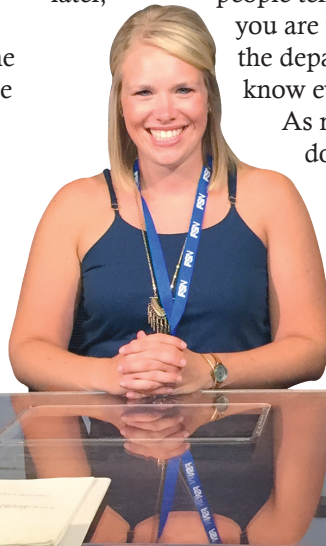
it out. The wonderful lady my mom is, she signed me up for a Discover Western my senior year. I already planned on being a Tiger, with lots of black and gold in my closet. After spending the day at Western, the colors in my closet were going to have to change to purple and gold. During that day at Western, I saw the studio, worked a camera, sat in the sports truck and interviewed in front of the camera. That’s when I knew I was going to call Western home.

I’ll admit, coming to a University the size of my town where I knew no one was scary. Turns out, three years later,

people tell me, “Emily, you are the face of the department; you know everyone.”

As much as I don’t like that statement, I take a step back and realize it’s true. I started

freshman year involved with Students of Illinois News Broadcasting Association (SINBA) and the National Broadcasting Society (NBS), and by junior year, I was president of both organizations. Freshman year, I also worked as a DJ on the student-run radio station, where I am now promotions director. One of my biggest involvements on campus is NEWS3. From anchoring, to reporting, producing and now executive producing, I have a long list of duties and I love it! The excitement and adrenaline before each show is what it’s all about, then watching your stories on live television is what makes it worthwhile. With all my experience at Western, I was able to step out of my comfort zone this past summer and apply for a great internship at KMOV- Channel 4 in St. Louis, my dream station. Being in a big market, you never know what you are signing up for. I took a chance, applied and spent my summer at the CBS affiliate. They were amazed with my demo reel and resume, and all the



opportunities I have had as a student. The producers, reporters, anchors and managers were impressed with the awards I have earned from WIU. During my junior year, I took home first place for Best Community Radio News reporting in the nation. The award was on a story I wrote about Macomb's Downtown Community Developer. A month later, I won Best Hard TV News Reporting in the state. As a news team, we won Best Newscast in the state and were nominated nationally. I also earned scholarships from the broadcasting department and was the first recipient of the Sam Edsall Scholarship.

Western has been my home for the past three and a half years, and I couldn't imagine life without my friends, professors, mentors and the people in the community. The WIU Department of Broadcasting and Journalism is like family; we work closely together to produce an award-winning product. Students come to WIU looking for opportunities, and this University is filled with people willing to help you find those opportunities. Although I like to stay crazy busy, I have a high energy for life. I'm blessed with fantastic friends and family who I thank for my success and support.

After graduation in May, I plan to continue my education at the University of Illinois at Springfield to earn my master's degree in public affairs.

I'm thankful to have found a great university, with a loving department because I have a great team behind me and one killer resume. Go Leathernecks! ●



BEHIND ENEMY LINES

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98 &
Brad Bainter '70 MS '83 *

Sixty-five days, or 1,560 hours, or 93,600 minutes, or 5,616,000 seconds.

That's how long Pete Fulks '49, Western Illinois State College graduate, spent in enemy territory in Serbia, slowly making his way back to Allied territory, after his plane was shot down while on his 18th mission as a bomber escort. The farm boy from Littleton, IL, was a long way from home ... and a long way from Allied territory ... yet his perseverance, and the kindness of the Yugoslavian people, ensured his safe return to the States.

Before getting to Fulks' war stories, the longtime Rushville (IL) School District teacher and administrator's story begins with his birth in 1920, on a small farm outside of Littleton. Fulks spent the first 10 years of his life on the farm before his family moved to Littleton. As a young boy during the Depression, Fulks worked alongside his family to ensure the family survived.

"We were fortunate to live in an area where we had gardens, chickens and what we needed to survive. We all had to work. I worked in the garden, I mowed, I tended to the chickens, and we made it. We never went hungry," Fulks told Vice President

for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79, MS '83 during a special segment of "The Purple Chair," a WIU University Television services production.

His first look at Western (which was called Western Illinois State Teachers College at the time) was when his school's baseball coach brought the team to Western to watch a game. But it was Fulks' mother who had the greatest influence on his college attendance.

"Had it not been for my mother, and my interest in sports, I wonder if I would have even gone to college. But my mother insisted I go. I give her all the credit. In those days, not many went to college," he recalled.

So in 1937, Fulks, who had played baseball and basketball in high school, joined the Leatherneck Basketball squad under the leadership of Ray Hanson and Wix Garner. While Fulks wasn't a regular player at the beginning of the season, he ended up playing as part of the conference championship team after filling in for Bill Hughes '39, who became ill. In February 2013, Fulks donated his 1939 college conference championship letterman's jacket to WIU Athletics for display in Western

Hall. Fulks also played baseball at Western, and in 1940, he was one of 17 players selected for the College Baseball World Series.

"We were set to play in Japan, but due to the war, there were no Olympics that year, so we went to Havana, Cuba to play in the College World Series," Fulks said. "It was a double elimination series, and we lost to Venezuela."

Because of the World Series opportunity, Fulks didn't make it back to Western as he went on to play professional ball in Junction City, KS. It was there he signed up for the draft.

So in October 1941, before officially joining the Air Force, Fulks took a defense job at an aircraft factory in Missouri. In 1942, he enlisted after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I had worked in the factory in Missouri and saw a lot of Air Force planes. The P-40 [fighter plane] was built there, and was one of the first fighter planes. I was interested in airplanes, so I enlisted in the Air Force," Fulks explained. "I had pre-flight training in San Antonio, primary in Missouri, basic training in Coffeyville (KS), and on to Texas for advanced. I was disappointed when I

got to Texas and got a twin engine. I wanted fighter planes all the way.”

Following his training in Pampa, TX, Fulks was sent to Arlington, and then got the call to report to ORD (overseas replacement depot).

“I was trained on an AT-6, a 650-horsepower plane. I couldn’t believe they’d send me overseas as an AT-6 pilot. That’s just a trainer plane! I talked to a lot of people about this, but I never got any answers from my superiors,” he laughed. “So there I was, overseas as an AT-6 pilot.

“I arrived in Italy on D-Day. We had heard very little about what was happening. Ordinarily pilots would have about 200 hours of training in planes that are going to fly in combat. None of us, the 12 of us who arrived in Italy, had that kind of time in planes. I had a couple hundred in the AT-6, but that was it. But we reported to the fire group, and they had to train us to fly fighter planes,” Fulks recollected, still with a hint of disbelief in his voice.

From that point on, Fulks, who was stationed at the 15th Air Force Base in Italy, went from the AT-6 to the fabled P-51 Mustang which he said had a greater range and ability. He made countless round trips in what was called Operation Chattanooga. His squadron would leave Italy with the job of escorting bombers part way to Germany. Because the bombers had a much greater range than the P-51s, another squadron of fighters would take over at some point and Fulks’ squadron would head back to Italy. Their task on the way back was to look for German supply trains and attack them. It was an “ordinary” job, he

recalled. “Nothing unusual at all.”

Until the ordinary became anything but ...

“We were on our way back from one trip and were told to fly ‘on the deck’ and hit anything that moved. We were assigned to hit a marshaling yard in Lapovo, Yugoslavia. Normally there’d be several engines and a whole lot of box cars in a yard. That day there was just one engine and a few box cars, so we hit the engine, and made three more passes,” Fulks said. “On my fourth pass, I let down and got as low as I could, and I got hit. My air speed indicator exploded and my engine exploded at 400 miles per hour. I was fortunate to glide about one mile away from the yard and got through a hedgerow to land. I hit my head. I was fortunate that I didn’t have any serious injuries.”

Now deep in enemy territory in Serbia, Fulks had to figure out how he was going to make it back to his base. He recalled when he was briefed by his commanders being told that the Yugoslavian people in the rural areas were friendly to American soldiers.

“They were. They took care of me. I got to sleep in beds better than I slept in at the base. But it was definitely not easy, and I had my share of scary moments. I was on a bus, and we were attacked by soldiers with machine guns. Four people were killed on that bus. I got off and set a record for a mile run, I’m sure,” Fulks said. “I had some close calls.”

One of the closest, next to the machine gun attack, was when he was in a small town, hiding in a family’s home. They looked out the window to see a German soldier approaching the home. Fulks hid in the attic and the

enemy slept in the bed directly below where Fulks was hiding. A German officer then came into the house, and pushed out the “common” soldier and took over the bedroom.

“I was in that attic right above the German soldiers for six days. Once they were gone, I got out of the attic and got out of town,” he said. “But on down the road, I was with another family, who happened to raise chickens, and one day a German officer showed up at the door. I hid under the bed while he bought eggs. At times, it was frightening, but I knew I’d make it.”

The Russians then succeeded in pushing the Germans out of Yugoslavia, and a family that Fulks was traveling with turned him over to the Russians. He, along with eight German POWs, walked for miles under guard.

“The Russians took me back to a prison camp, and I finally convinced a guard to get someone who spoke English. I gave him my Air Force wristwatch. I was there four days, and someone finally believed that I was American and I was let go,” Fulks explained.

Fulks flew back to Italy and was sent home. He ended up in California at the Hayward Air Force Base for four months, then onto Van Nuys and then finally at Edwards AF Base, where he was training to fly P-51s again, completing training missions with B-29s. He was set to go to the Pacific next, but the atomic bomb changed that course and Fulks was sent home.

“I went back to Western, got my degree in 1949, and took a teaching job in Rushville, which was quite a



change for me after my time in the Air Force,” he chuckled. “I was the only male teacher in the school, and my fellow teachers helped me so much. But for some reason, I was made into an administrator. I was coaching and teaching PE, and then, in my second year there, I was made principal, but I

still coached, taught PE and drove the school bus.”

Fulks retired in 1980, and on his retirement day, it was declared Pete Fulks Day in Rushville. And his former Western teammates and coach, Ray “Rock” Hanson were on hand for the event (Hanson even spoke, Fulks recalled). The three-sport athlete (football, basketball and baseball) was inducted in the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1988.

“I have been blessed. I had wonderful parents and a wonderful wife. I have a son that keeps me going,” he said. “I’ve been granted a few extra years, and I have so much to be thankful for.”

While Fulks retired more than 36 years ago, the 96-year-old still oversees a farm in Littleton “a little bit” ... “it keeps me moving,” he said, and he plays some golf. A few



Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter and Pete Fulks.

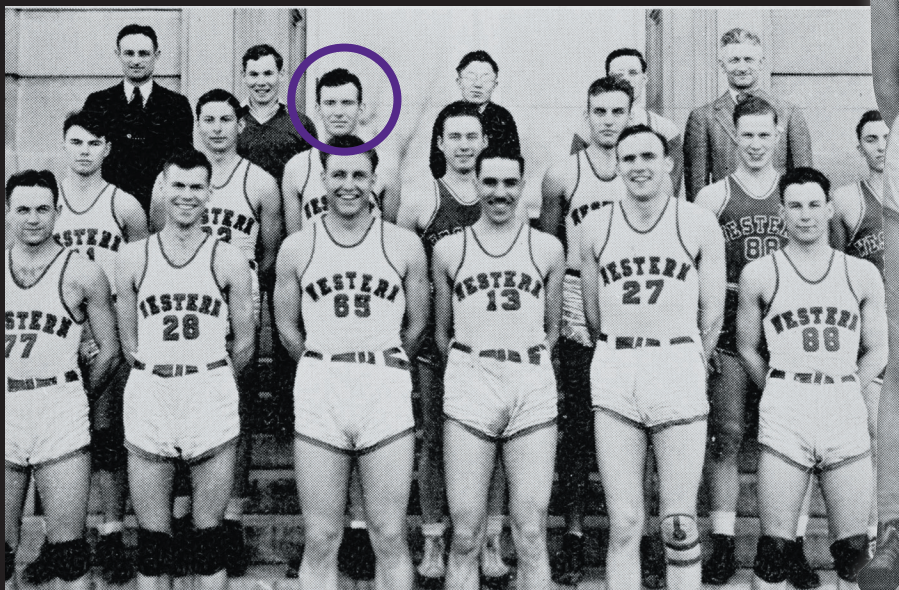
years ago, he had a hole-in-one at a Leatherneck golf outing, and followed it with another at the Rushville golf course.

“I am proud and humbled to have had the opportunity to interview Pete. It was an honor talking to him about his life,” Bainter said. “If I take away one thing from speaking with him it is, when I asked him if he ever thought he wouldn’t make it back to Allied lines, he answered, ‘I always had hope.’ He’s a true American hero in my eyes.” ●



Pete Fulks donated his letter jacket, which he had during the 1938 Little 19 Basketball Conference Championship.

**Transcribed from a “Purple Chair” interview with Fulks and Bainter.*



Fulks and his WIU championship basketball team. Also pictured are Wix Garner (back row, far left) and Ray Hanson (back row, far right).

STRAIGHT FROM A

STUDEN



Garret Covington, senior law enforcement and justice administration major

Western Hall wouldn't be the same without the one and only Dakarai Calhoun. Dakarai is also known as D or Mr. Do It All. Without D, no WIU sport would be able to operate functionally. He helps set up games, washes all the laundry for each sport we have at Western and is also a family man. This dedicated, hilarious, focused and unbelievably great guy keeps all of us going.

Dakarai, a.k.a. D, sets up home games for men's/women's basketball, volleyball, football and other events/sports that go on in Western Hall and Brophy Hall, and he always does it with a smile. D is easily the busiest guy in Western Hall every single day, but you wouldn't notice by the jokes and the way he carries himself. He knocks out his work and also helps other people within Western Hall to get their work done, even if it doesn't fit into his schedule at the moment. D is like the engine of Western Hall. If he goes down, we all go down. If D doesn't put the goals up or have the laundry done within the time every team needs to practice, we couldn't practice. It's unbelievable how he does all this basically by himself and keeps everything running smoothly.

Dakarai is at Western Hall pretty much all day. From at least 7 a.m. to about 7 p.m., and sometimes later. Every day he is handling the football equipment, then putting up the volleyball nets, as well as making



“Dakarai doesn't get enough recognition for what he does, and his work is important to every student-athlete and coach in Western Hall.”

sure we get our clips to workout in the morning. He makes sure everyone is taken care of at all times, and I just want to say “thank you” for that. To me, he is the hardest working man in Western Hall. D has also formed many bonds with not only my team, but pretty much every team in our program. You will hear only great things about him and most likely a joke from time to time.

Dakarai is an awesome guy with a beautiful little girl. She comes in to brighten up his day from time-to-time and to help him out with his work (or to add more to the work load). She comes in after practice and plays with some of the teammates—unless she was tired already and didn't want to do much, then you would be seeing D just carrying her around while he finished up.

Dakarai doesn't get enough recognition for what he does, and his work is important to every student-athlete and coach in Western Hall. Everyone in Western Hall just wants to say “thank you” for your hard work and dedication in all you do, D! ●



LEATHERNECK ATHLETICS

Sammy Marshall:

By Monica Jaenicke and Patrick Osterman, WIU Athletics

If given just one word to describe Sammy Marshall '15 of the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) Chicago Bandits—speed would be a good one.

From 2012-15, she wore number 10 for the purple and gold and played for Head Coach Holly Van Vlymen '00 MS-Ed '08, rewriting the Western Illinois softball records. A four-year starter at shortstop, and arguably one of the fastest players to ever suit up in a WIU uniform, Marshall put together one of the best all-around offensive careers. The numbers speak for themselves.

- *A career .456 career batting average.*
- *In 160 games played, 134 stolen bases.*
- *Western's all-time leader in hits (240) and runs scored (166)*
- *The Summit League and Western's all-time leader in stolen bases and batting average*
- *The top three season on-base percentages by a WIU softball player*
- *The 2012 and 2013 NCAA Division I champion in stolen bases per game*
- *10th-highest career batting average in NCAA history (240 hits/526 at-bats)*

Those numbers led the left-handed hitting infielder to become a four-time First Team All-Summit League selection—twice being named the League's Player of the Year—and a three-time NFCA (National Fastpitch

Coaching Association) All-Region selection.

Her accomplishments weren't just limited to the softball diamond. She was also named to the Academic All-Summit League four times, CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-District in 2013 and capped her collegiate career by being named the WIU Senior Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

Marshall joined elite WIU softball company when she was the third-ever WIU player drafted in April 2015 by the Bandits. She became the first Leatherneck to play professionally since her coach, Van Vlymen—a WIU Hall of Fame player herself—did following the 2000 season. That draft day selection stands as one of the most memorable in her collegiate career.

“As great of a day as it was for me getting drafted, so many people came out to the Sports Corner [in Macomb] to help celebrate with me.

Basically, anybody that I knew in Macomb, my teammates, my coaches and administrators came to support me. The amount of people there really gave me an ‘ah-ha’ moment that there are so many people that care about me and took time out of their day to share that with me,” said Marshall.

Marshall spent most of her rookie year in 2015 learning all she could from her teammates about what it takes to be successful as a professional athlete. Based on recommendations from her coach, Marshall switched from her normal shortstop position to second base.

“In my second year, my head coach said they wanted to train me at second base because that was going to be my best opportunity to play. So I took that opportunity and I ran with it,” said Marshall. But then she went through another position switch.

“About the second week of practice, they had me in the outfield and I started almost every game, starting at right and later moving over to center. As far as getting in every single game, having that struggle and a new mentality about being a starter and the learning curves I didn't get as a rookie was the biggest adjustment I needed to make.”

Early in the 2016 season—the first game to be exact—things started to click for Marshall.

“The first game of my second year, I had a



L-r: WIU Softball Assistant Coach Beth Golito, Sammy Marshall and WIU Softball Head Coach Holly Van Vlymen.

relatively good game with a hit and an RBI. It was my first 'ah-ha' moment where I knew I belonged there. My first year I wasn't playing as much and not having the success I was used to having, it was a struggle. But then that first game it opened up a lot of doors for me in my head because I believed that I could do what I was drafted to do."

She finished last season stealing 16 bases, tying her for the Rally Spikes Award (most stolen bases in the National Pro Fastpitch League). Marshall started 46 times in 51 games, batting .244 with 22 runs scored and a .980 fielding percentage.

Her first two years as a Bandit has allowed Marshall to become a bigger student of the game, which is her favorite thing about playing softball professionally.

"What's so awesome about my teammates is that a majority of them either coach softball in the offseason or continue to play professionally overseas. Getting to learn from the greatest softball athletes in the world is so much fun and something that I don't think I would've been privy to had I not gone into professional softball. What's so great about softball is that you never know it all, there's always something to learn and playing in just two short years with the Bandits I've already learned so much more about the game."

Marshall will prepare for her upcoming third year of professional softball in Florida. She accepted a position at St. Leo University and will serve as a graduate assistant coach this spring (pursuing a master's degree) before returning home in May. But trying to balance school, coaching and training is no easy task.

"Luckily, Western gave me a lot of the tools in doing that. Obviously,

being a Division I student-athlete you have to learn to delegate time and make time for things that are important to you. School, softball and training for the Bandits are all important things to me, so you'll find time for things that are important to you," admitted Marshall. "I make sure that I delegate enough time to get all my work done, lift and get in sprint workouts, as well as being as good of a graduate assistant and softball coach as I can. It's not easy, by any means, but it's what is important to me right now so it's not a sacrifice it's a matter of finding time to get it all done."

Being a professional athlete in her hometown area of Naperville allows Marshall to give back to the community as well.

"One of the best things about being a professional athlete is the people that you get to reach. During the 2015-16 offseason, I worked in the Rosemont Chicago Bandits office. Almost every weekend, I got to work with a team, travel ball team or

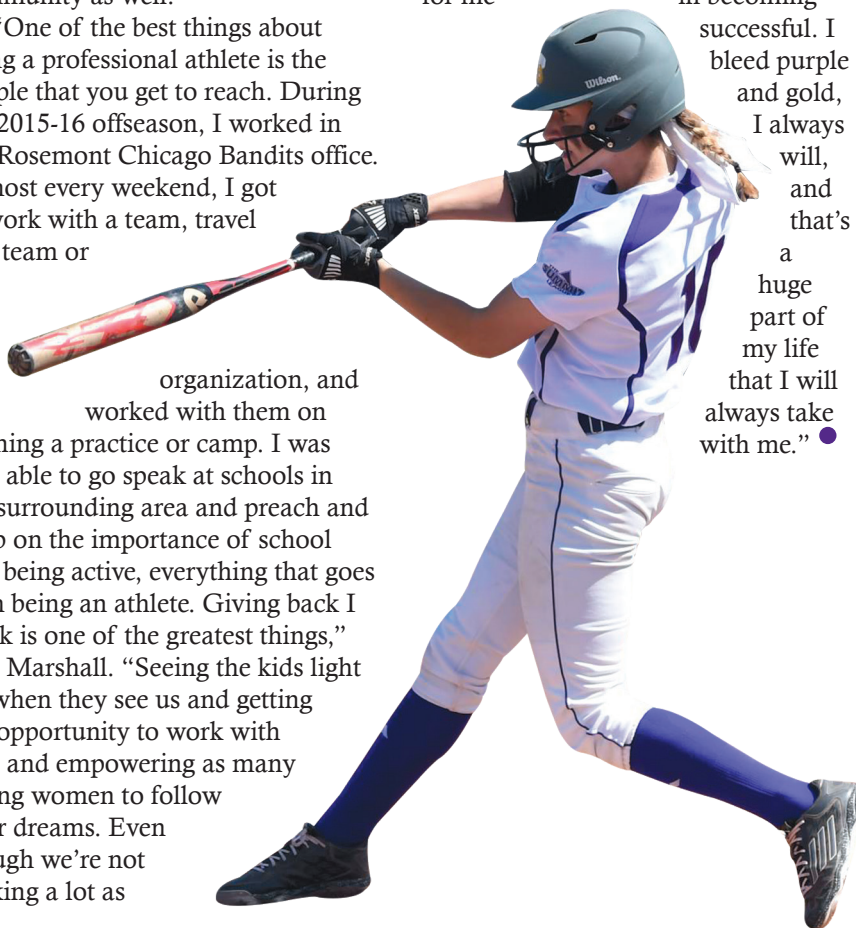
organization, and worked with them on running a practice or camp. I was also able to go speak at schools in the surrounding area and preach and harp on the importance of school and being active, everything that goes with being an athlete. Giving back I think is one of the greatest things," said Marshall. "Seeing the kids light up when they see us and getting the opportunity to work with kids and empowering as many young women to follow their dreams. Even though we're not making a lot as

far as salary goes in the NPF, we're hoping to open a lot of doors for them in the future as professional softball players so that one day they can hopefully make a living off of it."

When she becomes eligible, Marshall is a near-lock to be a first-ballot Hall of Famer for Western Illinois Athletics. Her current team colors may have changed from the purple and gold, but that will not change how she feels about WIU.

"I love Western. I don't think I would've been drafted if I went to another school. Western ultimately prepared me for my future, not just in professional softball, but in everything I do. Even after I hang up my cleats I think Western really paved the way for me

in becoming successful. I bleed purple and gold, I always will, and that's a huge part of my life that I will always take with me." ●





Veterans' Corner

Honoring the Fallen

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

More than four years ago, Dana Enger '99, a Western Illinois University finance graduate, who was serving as WIU's assistant vice president for administrative services, came up with an idea to honor the University's fallen soldiers, while also raising funds for the University's Fallen Soldiers Scholarship. The Fallen Soldiers 5K Run/Walk was born, and the inaugural event debuted Nov. 10, 2012, one day prior to Veterans Day.

The Fallen Soldiers 5K honors WIU alumni Capt. Derek Dobogai '03 and Lt. Col. Robert Baldwin '93, who were both killed in the line of

duty. Dobogai, who graduated from Western in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and justice administration, was among the 14 U.S. soldiers aboard a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed Aug. 22, 2007, in northern Iraq. Baldwin, who earned a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from WIU, was killed Sept. 21, 2010, when his Blackhawk UH-60 helicopter carrying international troops crashed during combat operations in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.

Dobogai (Fon du Lac, WI) was a member of the Leatherneck cross-country team and track and field

team. He was also a member of WIU's Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC), and while at Western, was ranked No. 14 Army ROTC cadet in the nation among more than 4,000 cadets. Dobogai earned the "Lieutenant of the Year" award for the 25th Infantry Division and had been selected to the U.S. Army Special Forces unit known as the Green Berets.

Baldwin (New Boston, IL) also held a master's degree in military art and science from the School of Advanced Military Studies and a master's degree in adult education from Kansas State University.





While at Western, Baldwin was a member of ROTC and the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity. Baldwin's military awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Meritorious Unit Commendation; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Arrowhead Device; Global War on

Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; Air Assault Badge; Parachutist Badge; and the Senior Army Aviator Badge.

"I'm so proud to see how the event has grown over the years," Enger said. "It's a tremendous privilege to be able to honor the lives of all of the brave men and women who have served and to remember those who gave their

lives in service to our country."

The 2012 event brought together 300 runners/walkers and raised nearly \$10,000 for the Fallen Soldiers Scholarship at WIU, which supports veterans and service members currently enrolled at Western. Since the event's inception, more than \$75,000 has been raised for the scholarship, and the fall race has become one of the largest races in McDonough County, with nearly 600 runners and walkers participating in the 2016 event.

"We take our reputation as a military-friendly University seriously, and we work hard to assist our veterans, as well as those who are currently serving in the military as they pursue their degrees at Western," said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter '79 MS '83. "I am so proud that the University, community, and the region have embraced this race as one way we show support for the military and honor those that gave all."

The 2017 Fallen Soldiers 5K Run/Walk will be held Oct. 14, 2017. ●

** All photos provided by WIU Visual Production Center.*



Two WIU MFA students

[continued from page 2] taken my ideas of what I thought I was going to do and it has just kind of opened up other doors. So now I am once again at this place of being excited to see what I do. At this point, if I was able to be employed as an actor, yes, or go into teaching, yes, there is nothing but yes at this point.”

Despite the fact that the two WIU graduate acting students have not been cast in any University production together, Olson said they have transitioned well, and their scenes showcase each other’s strengths.

“It’s hard to find a play or a script that is a world that Jeff and I both live in a lot of the time, so we’re faced with that challenge of how do we find scenes that we both live in,” he said

Olson said he and Young had a moment of realization after the final round of competition, when they walked into the theatre’s lobby and saw several WIU faculty members there.

“Bill Kincaid, who’s the head of acting, and Carolyn Blackinton, who is the head of the voice portion of performance and DC Wright, who is the head of the movement portion, were all standing in the lobby,” said Olson. “I walked out and I saw them and I’m like, ‘Oh my goodness, each scene lines up with one of the teachers.’ It just sort of hit me in that moment that all of the holistic acting training that we received at Western really had paid off. It was a touching moment.” ●

WIU alumni capture

[continued from page 2]

“Though nothing is like working in the real world—you learn how to do just about everything different than you’re used to doing,” said Smith. “WIU broadcasting is pretty close to the real world. All the teachers in the program have long résumés, and it shows. Everything that Jasmine [Crighton], Roger [Sadler], Buzz [Hoon] and Sam [Edsall] warned us

Because you’re a girl

[continued from page 4] along with three other sports,” she said. “Before that, I was always faced with the phrase that I couldn’t participate in sports ‘because you’re a girl.’”

Bartges intended to start her research interviews with the first eight people who had coached teams in Illinois’ first state tournament for girls. However, the coach from Washington, IL, Jan Smith, had died some years before and the coach from Chicago Fenger declined to be interviewed. Bartges said she would still like to interview her.

“They were all so interesting,” she said. “There were a lot of common threads in what they had to say, so there was a snowball effect, connecting me to other coaches and leading to more interviews. I also still occasionally do interviews.”

The collection includes interviews with Charlotte Lewis, an Illinois State University standout who was on the first women’s Olympic basketball team in 1976, and Lorene Ramsey, who helped grow the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) at Pekin HS. GAA was later supplanted by the Illinois High School Association (IHSAA).

“Occasionally I get letters from kids whose dads or moms have encouraged them to look more into sports or Title IX for their history presentations and they came across the interviews,” said Bartges. “It was a work of passion and dedication, but it wasn’t really work.” ●

about, and taught us, I’ve actually seen come to fruition in the business so far.”

Smith said the knowledge she gathered at WIU goes beyond skill and includes the way the faculty in the WIU Department of Broadcasting and Journalism teach with professionalism.

“My current coworkers have commented a few times on the respect I try to emit each day at work and on my work ethic,” said Smith. “A lot of

Giving back

[continued from page 5] or hear your cheerful voice. Dozens of memories flood my mind and bring tears to my eyes. The vacant place your passing makes can never be filled. War is such a waste, but we must go on. We will laugh again, have good times, be happy. You would want us to, but never, never will we forget you, Bill.”

“George Grice has been so generous to Western Illinois University. We are grateful for his desire to focus his giving on helping future educators,” shared Brad Bainter, vice president for advancement and public services. “By assisting current education majors, George’s contributions will not only impact today’s Western students but the students they will educate in the future. This is a gift that will keep on giving.”

Family has always been important to the Grices and the Lumans. That is why George has created five scholarships in various family members’ names, including this new scholarship named for his uncle and aunt.

“It is a way to honor the past and invest in the future,” Grice said. “Scholarships enable us to recruit, retain and reward quality teachers. I can find no better place to invest in this cause than WIU.” ●

** Retired Army Sergeant Major Mike R. Vining has researched and published articles on naval history and expeditions.*

that comes from what I was exposed to at WIU. Words and critiques, especially from Jasmine and Roger, are still some of the things that echo in my mind while producing. Sharpness, accuracy, honesty and integrity are words I associate with WIU broadcasting and really some of the most important things to consider in the news business.” ●



ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

MARCH

29 Mt. Sterling Alumni & Friends Dinner at Hagel 1891

APRIL

- 5 Springfield Legislative and Alumni & Friends Social at Abraham Lincoln Hall
- 5 Chicago Western Wednesdays Downtown Chicago
- 12 Alumni & Friends Social in Washington D.C.
- 24 Purple and Gold Day in Macomb at The Sports Corner
- 24 Purple and Gold Day in Denver

MAY

- 13-15 Graduation/Distinguished Alumni Awards Weekend
- TBA St. Louis Alumni & Friends Social and Show at Lombardo's and The Black Rep
- TBA Bloomington, IL Alumni & Friends Social and Wine Tasting
- TBA Alumni & Friends Social and "Whistler's Mother" Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago

JUNE

- 3 Cubs v. Cardinals Social & Baseball Game at Wrigley Field
- 7 Chicago Western Wednesdays in Suburb
- 12 The Western Open Alumni & Friends Golf Outing at Village Links in Glen Ellyn, IL
- 19 Quad Cities Alumni & Friends Golf Outing at TPC Deer Run in Silvis, IL
- 21 Philadelphia Alumni & Friends Social
- 22 Pittsburgh Alumni & Friends Social with NFL Great Mike Wagner '71

JULY

24-28 California Alumni & Friends Events

To view all previous event photos, visit [FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/WIUALUMNI.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wiualumni/)

For all upcoming events, visit: [WIU.EDU/ALUMNI/EVENTS.](http://WIU.EDU/ALUMNI/EVENTS)



APRIL 24



We are searching for proud alumni and friends who will record themselves sharing what Western means to them in just **ONE** word. Whether your degree prepared you for a **successful** career, you found your true **love**, made the best of **friends**, or Western became your second **home** where you made **memories** to last a lifetime ... we would love to hear about your experience.

Here's what we're looking for:

Record yourself saying ONE word that describes your experience at Western or what Western means to you.

- If you're recording with a smart phone, hold it in a horizontal position. You can either record in selfie mode or have someone record you in regular mode.
- Make sure you're recording in a well-lit room. Ideally, you would be facing the light source (so your face is well lit and no shadows will be cast across your face/neck). If the light is too bright, you will most likely squint, so try to use a light source that doesn't make you squint.
- If you have WIU gear, please wear it.
- Relax while recording! And don't forget to show your Leatherneck pride with a smile!
- Submit your one-word video clip to westernchallenge@wiu.edu by Wednesday, April 19.**

Questions can be emailed to westernchallenge@wiu.edu.

Top videos will be chosen and revealed and streamed at the Purple & Gold Day celebrations, as well as at wiu.edu/westernchallenge.

WE NEED **YOUR** HELP!

Monday, April 24 is the day to celebrate all things Western.

The Western Challenge, an energized 24-hour online fundraising event to support WIU students, faculty and campus programs, falls on our annual celebration of **Purple & Gold Day**. It's a day for Leathernecks everywhere to unite in giving in a display of Western pride.

You can support The Western Challenge by making a gift on April 24, spreading the word using the hashtag **#LeathernecksGive** and by becoming an online advocate to help drive the effort!

You are also invited to join us for our annual Purple & Gold Day socials.

Macomb Purple & Gold Day

Time: 4:30-7 p.m. CST

**Location: Sports Corner @124
124 N. Randolph St.
Macomb, IL**

Denver Purple & Gold Day

**Time: 5-7:30 p.m.
Denver, CO**

EMBARK on an adventure with the WIU Alumni Association

Timeless Treasures

April 28-May 6, 2017
Travel to the coastal towns of Italy and the idyllic clifftop villages of the Greek Isles.

Sicily

May 9-18, 2017
Delve into Sicily's epic past while staying in western, central and eastern areas of the island.

Swiss Alps & The Italian Lakes

June 2-11, 2017
The best of Swiss and Italian culture and heritage await you.

Coastal Mediterranean

June 13-21, 2017
Take in the Mediterranean's enchanting coastal towns as you cruise from Rome to Monte Carlo.

Cruise the Rhine River

July 10-18, 2017
Cruise through Europe on a journey designed with families in mind.

Riches of the Emerald Isle

July 18-29, 2017
Journey through the Celtic history.

Baltic & Scandinavia Treasures

Aug. 17-28, 2017
Baltic and Scandinavian treasures abound on this voyage to some of northern Europe's most iconic ports aboard Oceania Cruises' intimate Nautica.

Music of America

Oct. 29-Nov. 6, 2017
Celebrate the classic music of America on

this river cruise to picture-perfect towns in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri.

Timeless Beauties

May 2-10, 2018
The Riviera welcomes you into the relaxed Mediterranean lifestyle on this luxury cruise through Southern Europe.

Romantic Rhine & Moselle

June 12-27, 2018
From Zürich to Amsterdam and everywhere in between, romance is alive and well on the Rhine river and its idyllic tributary, the Moselle.

Majestic Frontiers of Alaska

Aug. 16-27, 2018
Stand in awe of massive glaciers and all-enveloping scenery as you cruise up the Alaskan coast.

More 2018 trips to be announced at a later date!

**Please note that all trip dates are subject to change.

We offer travel insurance for all types of travel. Whether you decide to travel with WIU or even for trips you take on your own, the WIU Alumni Association offers insurance for all types of trips. Feel free to check out our Travel Insurance Program!

Visit wiu.edu/alumni/travel.php for more information or call (800) 937-1387.

Class Notes

Jerry Koehler '63 MA '65, Tampa, FL, is a professor of information systems and decision sciences at the University of S. Florida and has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar in Management to Belarus.

Susanne Rodgers Long '72, Eureka Springs, AK, was awarded Doctor of Philosophy PhD in Metaphysical Humanistic Science specializing in metaphysical science and is a self-employed Holistic Practitioner.

Carol Anderson '73, Springfield, is retired.

Sara Woodburn Sweet '73, Peoria, retired from education after 43 years of teaching and administration.

Donald Witt '73, Roseville, CA, is a partner with HODPros.

Jeffrey Clark '74, Bloomington, was awarded the 2016 William A. Howe Award from The American School Health Association.

Marilee McCann Crumley '74, Green Valley, AZ, is retired.

Janice Burkhalter Anderson '75, Rockford, is an MPI coordinator at Mercyhealth.

David Crumley '75, Green Valley, AZ, is retired.

Janet Courtney-Smith '76, San Diego, CA, is the assistant vp of budget & treasury for the University of San Diego.

Dan Englebright '76, Pekin, is the manager at Pekin Park Dist.

Christopher Mixson '76, Arroyo Seco, NM, retired from News America Marketing as the president and now is the president/managing partner of Mixson Consulting, LLC/Taos Mesa Brewing.

James Godfrey '77, Katy, TX, is a sr. sub-surface applications analyst at BHP Billion Petroleum in Houston.

Charlotte Klink '77, Elgin, is a retired high school English teacher and landlord.

Walter James MS '79, Tucson, AZ, is retired from teaching and coaching at the University of Chicago after 37 years at the end of the 2014-15 school year; he was inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame; and was a coach in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games coaching in the marathon for the country of Lebanon.

Raymond Pfahl '81, Boardman, OH, is a sr. capa quality engineer at Zimmer Biomet in Dover.

Dusan Puhar '81, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, is a retired police officer.

Kelly Kallhauge Stieger '81, Oak Park, is a meeting and events manager for The Westin Lombard at Yorktown Center in Lombard.

Robert Murray '83, Palm Springs, CA, is retired.

Jeff Uhler '83, Waukesha, WI, is a neuro chaplain for Aurora Health Care Metro, Inc. in Milwaukee.

Dan Carlson '84, Glen Ellyn, is a bond underwriter for Chubb.

Tim Major '84, Evansville, IN, retired from Federated Mutual Insurance after 29 years.

Mahendra Pattni MBA '84, Arlington, MA, is head of finance for Shire in Lexington.

Rachelle Carter Hollinshead '86, Avon, IN, is the president/owner of L & J Drilling Services, Inc.

Wayne Krabbe '87, Sabina, OH, is a seedsman for Channel Seed.

Miriam Parmenter Mattias '87, Jacksboro, TN, is the park ranger at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Oneida.

Harry Bednarczyk '88, Pasco, WA, is an ordinance LDO for the U.S. Navy.

Kim Peoples '88, E. St. Louis, is the team lead at Target in Shiloh.

Kathy Burke Wozny '88, Addison, is a sr. director mega dealer for Cox Automotive Co.

Daniel Grisham '89, Martinsville, IN, is a security specialist for the Dept. of Defense in Indianapolis.

Jerry Gentile '90, Elmhurst, is an energy assessor for DuPage County.

Tracy Thomas Yager '90, Geneseo, is a teller for Wells Fargo.

Pamela Mailes Daniel '92, Manteno, is an accounts payable coordinator for Tampico Beverages.

Randy Endean '92, S. Elgin, was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police for the S. Elgin Police Dept.

Tim Kristin '92, Oak Forest, is the Chief of Police for Oak Forest Police Dept.

Nancy Harms McIntire MS-ED '92, MS-ED '05, Lisbon, IA, retired as the coordinator of quality learning at Mississippi Bend AEA in Bettendorf.

Sergio Molina '92, Salt Lake City, UT, is a sr. vp business development and administration at Management and Training Corp. in Centerville.

David Holcomb '93, Burr Ridge, is the program director of enterprise informatics and analytics at the University of Chicago Medicine.

Daniel Riegler '94, Chicago Hts, was promoted to Sergeant with the Chicago Hts. Police Dept.

Jennifer Ashley '95, Libertyville, is a partner with Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard and a recipient of the Lake County Journal's 2016 Women of Distinction Award.

Michael Smith '95, St. Augustine, FL, works in sales for Consolidated Electrical Distributors in Jacksonville.



Cathleen Barlow Strabala MS '95, Leawood, KS, is the director of quality & compliance at Chenega Corp. in Anchorage, AK.

Kellie McGhee '98, Phoenix, AZ, is a detective for the city of Phoenix and was among 8 members of the Arizona Internet Crimes against Children Task Force who were presented the 2016 Attorney General's Special Commendation Award.

Melissa Morrison Blanchard '99, Zion, is a csr for Americash Loans in Des Plaines.

Sherilyn Alexander '00, Vernon Hills, is manager for CVS Health.

Steven Beck '00 MS '11, Lewisville, TX, is a general manager for Durham School Services in Carrollton.

Eleanora Yoch Hendrix '00 MS-ED '09, Kewanee, is a special education teacher for Henry Stark Special Education Dist.

Byron Hendrix '00, Kewanee, is a technical sales representative for Verdsian Life Sciences.

Meghan O'Malley Orsi '00, Huntley, works in hospital administration at Delnor Hospital.

Kyle Peterson '00 MA '04, Brooks, Alberta, Canada, is a project coordinator for Grasslands Regional FCSS.

Kelley Preiss Lower '01, Machesney Park, is a pharmacy buyer for Mercy Health.

Katie Bourne '02, Austin, TX, is a licensed insurance agent with Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Megan Jones Owens '02 MS '12, College Park, MD, is the extension 4-H state specialist for the University of MD.

Timothy Sanders '02, Lillington, NC, is chief of logistics for the U.S. Army Reserve Command in Ft. Bragg and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

Brandon Snyder '03 MS '06, Peoria, is a resident services coordinator at Gateway at River City.

Tara Sewell Chenoweth '04 MA '07, Macomb, is a 4-H coordinator for the University of Illinois Extension.

Heather Stalling Reed MS '04, Little Rock, AR, is an assistant dean in the College of Education and Health Professions for University of Arkansas.

Jason Cunningham MS '05, Coventry, RI, is the director of public relations for the Centerbrook Architects & Planners in Centerbrook, CT.

Lauren Kulinski '05 MS '08, Parker, CO, is an education assistant for the Douglas County School Dist.

Fredrick Manning, Jr., '05, St. Louis, MO, is the CFO at Traffic Control Company.

Tracy Katschke McCluren '05, Aurora, received a Master of Arts in Ministry from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is a youth minister to Christ Lutheran in Palatine and Peace Lutheran in Lake Zurich.

Matthew Toland '05 MA '10, Moline, is an executive director for International Preservation Studies Center.

Alissa Toppert-Sallows '05, E. Moline, is the vp of Toppert Jetting Service, Inc.

Lori Johnson Vick MAT '05, S. Burlington, VT, is an assistant professor for University of Vermont and received a PhD in Nursing.

Brian Biscan '07, St. Charles, is in sales management at Anning-Johnson Co.

Debbie Curtis '07, Harvey, is a service specialist at Winston and Strawn/DTI Global in Chicago.

Susie Steinborn Dordek '07, Chicago, is a program manager for BCD Meetings and Events.

Jason Koebbe '07, Ballwin, MO, was recently promoted to audit manager for Sikich LLP.

Peter Lurquin '07, Joliet, is the project manager for Graycor Construction Company in Oakbrook Terrace.

Jessica Dawson Monahan '07 MS '15, Greenfield, WI, is a paraprofessional at Greenfield School Dist.

Marvin Rozario MBA '07, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is an administrative officer for B2B Bank.

Marisa Doerfler Marty '08, Springfield, works for American Central Insurance Services in commercial lines servicing and marketing.

Leah Matteson '08, Burlington, IA, is a special needs associate for the Burlington Community School Dist.

Brian Wils '08, Wauwatosa, WI, is the HR manager for MillerCoors.

Nick Atwood '09, DeKalb, is an associate attorney at Becker Law Office in Genoa.

Shawn Wilber Fite '09, Albuquerque, NM, is a HR manager for Blake's Lotaburger, LLC.

Michael Pisula '09, Elmwood, is self employed as a freelance web developer.

Carrie Schmidt Potter '09, Quincy, works in safety/internal purchasing for Quincy Recycle.

Jonathan Allender-Zivic MFA '10, Vermillion, SD, is an assistant professor of theatre at the University of South Dakota.

Kathleen Hamilton '10, Troy, is head athletic trainer for Edwardsville CUSD # 7.

Ramona Sayles '11, Forest Park, is the human resource coordinator for Claire's Inc. in Hoffman Est.

D'Angelo Taylor '11 MA '15, Moline, is the asst. director for the Multicultural Center at the University of S. Indiana and published his first book, A Political Life: Black Culture, Civic Engagement, Education and Hope.

Robyn Winker '11, Ft. Collins, CO, is an administrative coordinator for Colorado State University.

Shaun Belk '12, Phoenix, AZ, works in service express for Starwood Hotels and Resorts.

John Parkinson '12, Peoria, is a group leader and project manager for Belcan Engineering Group, LLC.



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Julianne Boo Nanzer '13, Ottawa, is a front desk receptionist for the Rezin Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Morris.

Sarah Cobert Rynders '13, Springfield, is a consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education.

Candice Lanhum Daniel '14, Pittsfield, is a teacher for Pikeland CUSD #10.

Amber Bedee Josephson MS '14, Oceanside, CA, is an academic advisor for University of California San Diego.

Chris Lovingood '14, Peoria, has joined the NBC2 News team in Ft. Myers, FL.

Kaitlyn Tucker '15, Middletown, is a billing specialist for COUNTRY Financial.

Alexis Austin MS '16, Duluth, MN, is a residence director at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Arathi Sharada Balagangadharan MA '16, Bettendorf, IA, is an economics and decision sciences instructor at Western Illinois University in Macomb.

Katie Barnard MS '16, Salt Lake City, UT, is an academic advisor at the University of Utah.

Jess Girdler MS '16, Manhattan, KS, is the residence life coordinator at Kansas State University.

Caleb Maddox MS '16, Pocatello, ID, is an academic advisor at Idaho State University.

Maggie Miller MS '16, Lincoln, NE, is the residence director at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Alondra Olvera MS '16, Carlinville, is the director of student engagement and residence director at Blackburn College.

Brian Richter MS '16, Pomona, CA, is residence life coordinator at Cal Poly Pomona.

Ashley Case Sanders '16, Ashton, is a correctional officer/deputy for the Lee County Sheriff Dept.

Patricia Simmons '16, Macomb, is the aquatic coordinator for the YMCA of McDonough County.

Marriages & Civil Unions

Janet Barnhart '93 and Robert Lund, July 20, 2016.

Carrie Blomquist '00 and David Starks, June 18, 2016.

Julianne Boo '13 and Caleb Nanzer '14, Oct. 8, 2016.

Jessica Dawson '07 MS '15 and **Brendan Monahan MA '12 MS-ED '14**, Oct. 9, 2016.

Megan Harrison '14 and **Jordan Maag '12**, Sept. 3, 2016.

Candice Lanhum '14 and **Seth Daniel '14**, June 10, 2016.

Thomas Nagle '11 and Kim Simonis, Apr. 1, 2016.

Josi Parker '12 and Derek Carley, Aug. 27, 2016.

Matthew Toland '05 MA '10 and **Saul Nache '05**, June 11, 2016.

Births & Adoptions

Brock Bainter '04 and **Megan Butler Bainter '06 MBA '09**, a daughter, Brynna Marie, Aug. 3, 2016.

Kristin Barney Gustafson '03 and Scott, a daughter, Brooklyn Grace, Feb. 1, 2016.

Kelley Preiss Lower '01 and Jeffrey, a son, Lucas Alexander, Aug. 21, 2016.

Mischelle Banas Oaks '97 and **Joshua Oaks '04**, a son, Maverick James, Sept. 26, 2016.

John Parkinson '12 and **Laura Negley Parkinson '11**, a daughter, Tatum, July 27, 2016.

Carrie Schmidt Potter '09 and Josh, a daughter, Grace Elizabeth, Mar. 26, 2016.

Joe Stevens '04 and Kim, a son, Makaio Joseph, Aug. 22, 2016.

Shawn Thrush '06 and **Seberina Lacey Thrush '06**, a daughter, Sadie Eliza, July 6, 2016.

Deaths

Laura M. Bollaert, Merritt Island, FL, Oct. 23, 2016.

James A. Davis, Springfield, Sept. 5, 2016.

Mary S. "Susan" Lane Doty, Walnut, Sept. 17, 2016.

Donald L. Erickson, Springfield, Aug. 1, 2012.

Suzanne M. Fleming, Monroe, MI, Aug. 27, 2016.

Norma J. Foster, Holiday Island, AR, Sept. 9, 2016.

Herman Griesenbrock, Jr., Macomb, Aug. 10, 2016.

Joseph S. Kersting, Jr., Macomb, Sept. 30, 2016.

Melvyn A. "Mak" Kronn, DeForest, WI, Oct. 13, 2016.

James P. Maloney, Bettendorf, IA, July 31, 2016.

Donald D. "Sonny" McDaniel, Otwell, IN, Aug. 7, 2016.

Richard W. Mings, Roseville, Sept. 6, 2016.

Jane E. Morrow, Macomb, July 29, 2016. 2016, 07 - 29

Kenneth O. Nimrick, Stronghurst, Aug. 20, 2016.

Betty H. Schoeninger, Eureka Springs, AR, Sept. 24, 2016.

Lee O. Vida, La Jolla, CA, Aug. 7, 2016. 2016, 08 - 07

Patricia D. Walters, Beardstown, Aug. 30, 2016.

Kevin F. Wiley, Macomb, Oct. 23, 2016.

1933 Mary L. Luman Shortness '41, London Mills, Aug. 29, 2016.

1939 Mary Margaret Gould Coote, Lafayette, IN, Sept. 8, 2016.

1940 Emid E. Frazier Humphrey MS-ED '64, Quincy, Sept. 1, 2016.

1950 Mary Jane Weinberg MS-ED '62, Hudson, OH, June 20, 2016.

1952 Richard H. Switzer MSE '55, Macomb, Oct. 19, 2016.

1953 Madeline L. Eiker Carrigan, Knoxville, May 30,



2016.

1954 Betty J. "Joan" Aleshire Ufkes, Carthage, Aug. 27, 2016.

1955 Russell H. Cramm MS-ED '56, Lake Jackson, TX, Sept. 18, 2016.

1956 Harry E. McDaniel, Macomb, Oct. 9, 2016.

1957 Mildred S. Bavery MS-ED '60, Stronghurst, Oct. 25, 2016.

1958 Richard S. Lee, Pekin, Aug. 8, 2016.

1958 Grace E. Gingrich Madsen, Carlsbad, CA, Apr. 16, 2016.

1959 Kenneth F. Sallee MS-ED, Carthage, Oct. 12, 2016.

1960 Paul H. McGrann, Raleigh, NC, Aug. 8, 2016.

1961 Mary Louise Wagner Dawson, Springfield, July 23, 2016.

1962 John C. Brown, Metamora, Aug. 21, 2016.

1964 Ronald K. Shipman, Dallas City, Oct. 12, 2016.

1966 Mary Smith Johnson MS-ED, Monmouth, Sept. 12, 2016.

1968 Evan C. Cramer MS-ED '74, Hollywood, FL, July 9, 2016.

1969 Joyce A. Gray Gist, Largo, FL, Sept. 3, 2016.

1969 Richard J. Mader, Alton, July 25, 2016.

1970 Branden L. "Brad" Schaefer, Collinsville, Aug. 21, 2016.

1971 David R. Ellis MS '78, Canton, Aug. 21, 2016.

1972 Nicholas L. Hamm MS '75, Astoria, Aug. 9, 2016.

1972 Michael J. Kennedy MS-ED, Berwyn, Oct. 17, 2016.

1972 Carol A. Morby, Chicago, Oct. 20, 2016.

1972 Larry L. Myers, Galesburg, July 17, 2016.

1972 Juan B. Robinson, Springfield, Aug. 28, 2015.

1972 Alan D. Sebens, Noblesville, IN, June 3, 2016.

1972 Gregory D. Stone, Peoria, July 30, 2016.

1973 James M. "Jack" Ewing, Sun City Center, FL, July 9, 2016.

1973 Thomas G. Fleenor, Robinson, Oct. 12, 2016.

1973 Peggy J. Likes Hainsfurther, Winchester, Mar. 27, 2016.

1973 Kenneth J. Wallace, Naperville, July 24, 2016.

1973 Randal A. Wright, Aurora, Aug. 15, 2016.

1974 Stephen D. Chelstrom MS-ED '88, Coal Valley, July 1, 2015.

1975 Lloyd M. Lake ED SP, Davenport, IA, Oct. 21, 2013.

1975 Jerry S. Lucas, Pooler, GA, Sept. 11, 2016.

1975 Helen V. "Ginger" Alexander Nash, Naperville, Aug. 11, 2016.

1975 Mark D. Rune, Winthrop Harbor, Sept. 2, 2016.

1976 Randal D. Byrn, Hamilton, Oct. 25, 2016.

1977 Barbara J. Leach Bailey, Victorville, CA, Sept. 9, 2016.

1977 Cindy J. Huls Dooley MS-ED '89, Macomb, Sept. 22, 2016.

1980 Thomas Helgeson, Colorado Springs, CO, Aug. 25, 2016.

1981 M. Jane Kirkpatrick Miller, Geneseo, Aug. 20, 2014.

1982 Esther C. Castillo Mata, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 24, 2014.

1982 Anita L. Cain Pyle MS-ED, Bushnell, Sept. 14, 2016.

1985 Brent L. Fleetwood, Arvada, CO, Oct. 3, 2016.

1985 Charles P. Nesci, Catonsville, MD, Apr. 29, 2016.

1992 Archie M. Cullen, Geneseo, Aug. 21, 2016.

1992 Linda L. Lange Henricksen, Nauvoo, Oct. 10, 2016.

1997 David J. Root, Sherman, Sept. 7, 2016.

2001 Christopher M. Linboom, Dixon, July 31, 2016. 2016.

2002 Andrew W. Taylor MA '13, Macomb, Sept. 29, 2016.

2002 Shane M. Van Vleet, Macomb, Oct. 8, 2016.

2003 James M. "Michael" Stock, Bear Creek, WI, Aug. 14, 2016.

2005 Paul L. Gilbert, Macomb, Sept. 14, 2016.

2008 Vincent R. Hudspeth, Oakford, July 24, 2016.

2011 Laura B. Rokita, Quincy, Sept. 6, 2016.

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