

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Kay Kennedy

## WIU ENDOWMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

By Darcie Dyer-Shinberger '89 MS '98

The efforts of the staff of the Western Illinois University Foundation, led by Vice President for Advancement and Public Services and Executive Director of the Foundation Brad Bainter '79 MS '83, have led to the institution's endowment reaching an

all-time high.

According to Bainter, a recent estate gift of land and real estate, valued at over \$2.3 million, from late WIU Physical Education Alumna Kay Kennedy '46 has pushed the Foundation's endowment to nearly \$55 million. The total net assets of the Foundation are now just over \$65 million.

"Kay always supported Western Illinois University. She believed in WIU and in the WIU Foundation. Her gift will be used to support faculty research at the Vishnu Springs property, which was in Kay's family for decades, as well as provide maintenance and upkeep to the grounds," Bainter explained.

In addition, the Kennedy Endowment will provide funding for scholarships. Over the years, Kennedy supported the Department of Biological Sciences, providing \$50,000 for the purchase of microscopes, and establishing an endowed scholarship in kinesiology (formerly physical education) with a gift of \$50,000.

"Coming out of the recession of 2009, the Foundation's endowment stood at approximately \$20 million, so we've really seen some incredible growth in the last nine years," Bainter added. "The growth of the endowment has also pushed scholarship disbursements to record highs. During FY17, nearly \$1.7 million in scholarship support was provided by the Foundation, an increase of 105 percent over the last 10 years."

In the current fiscal year, 43 new scholarships were established, noted WIU Foundation Board President and WIU Alumna Jackie Thompson.

"Fundraising and development is an every day, every week, every year focus. From scholarships to endowments to matching gifts, Vice President Bainter and his development staff work incredibly hard to ensure that Western students, faculty and staff have the philanthropic support they need for their studies, research and more," Thompson added.

In addition to donations and endowed gifts, planned giving is also important to the future of Western, Bainter said. Currently, the WIU Foundation has documented nearly \$41 million in estate gifts, including bequests, life insurance, annuities and trusts, that will benefit Western for years to come.

Bainter, along with the Foundation's Executive Director of Development Paul Bubb MS '01, Annual Fund Director Tim Hallinan '95 and Western's college-level development officers, are gearing up for The Western Challenge, a day-long giving event on Purple & Gold Day April 24.

"I would like to thank our many generous donors for their continued support of Western, and to our development officers for ensuring continued success at WIU," Bainter said. "This is truly an amazing University, with incredible alumni and friends, who believe in Western Illinois University and all that it stands for."

For more information on giving opportunities, visit [wiu.edu/giving](http://wiu.edu/giving) or contact Bainter at (309) 298-1861.

## McCamey Crime Lab Underway

For nearly 50 years, WIU's School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (LEJA) has been recognized as one of the top criminal justice/public safety programs in the world. The School prepares graduates for careers across all sectors of law enforcement and public safety. LEJA will soon have a premier state-of-the-art crime lab to complement the criminalistics and critical thinking component of the students' studies.

The McCamey Crime Lab, currently under construction in Tillman Hall, is the result of a donation from Jody and Toby McCamey to honor their husband and son, William "Bill" McCamey, a professor within the School of LEJA from 1982 until 2012. Read more at [bit.ly/2xzmtuF](http://bit.ly/2xzmtuF).



October 27, 2018

[wiu.edu/fallensoldiers](http://wiu.edu/fallensoldiers)

## Alumni & Friends

Pregame Social & Game



February 10, 2019

Blackhawks vs. Red Wings

United Center



VS.



[wiu.edu/alumni](http://wiu.edu/alumni)

## Alumni & Friends EVENTS

### October

- 3 Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Rosemont at Hofbräuhaus Chicago
- 4 Warsaw Alumni & Friends Social at Warsaw Brewery
- 6 WIU vs. ISU Pregame Social & Football Game
- 16-27 Alumni Travel Abroad Coastal Vignettes
- 27 Fallen Soldiers 5K
- 28-Nov. 5 Alumni Travel Abroad Cuba: Art, Culture & People

### November

- 8 Monmouth Alumni & Friends Wine Tasting Event at Market Alley Wines
- 15 Celebrating Town & Gown 2018

### December

- 5 Western Wednesdays After-Hours in Downtown Chicago
- 14-15 Graduation

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## 2018 Distinguished Alumni

The outstanding accomplishments of Western Illinois University graduates Steven E. Nelson and Margaret W. Wong were recognized at Western's Spring 2018 Commencement.



Steven E. Nelson '77 is a semi-retired investor, founder/co-founder and former chairman and chief executive officer of several successful healthcare services and information technology companies.



Margaret W. Wong '73 is an attorney and the founder of Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC in Cleveland, OH.



## 2018 Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters

Western Illinois University graduate James E. Shipp and Quad Cities community activists Robert and Blenda Ontiveros received Western Illinois University's Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Western's Spring 2018 Commencement.



James E. Shipp '65 retired as president and CEO of Shipp Enterprises, LLC in White Plains, NY.



Robert and Blenda Ontiveros are the founders and owners of Group O in Milan, IL.



Visit [wiu.edu/alumni/recognition](http://wiu.edu/alumni/recognition) for more.

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**It's here!** Western Illinois University has launched a new credit card program—the Western Illinois University Card. Now you can show support and earn rewards with your purchases. Get all of the card details and apply for your card today! [wiu.edu/alumni/credit\\_card.php](http://wiu.edu/alumni/credit_card.php) or call (309) 298-1914 for more information.



# A letter from **THE ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

## **Dear Fellow Leatherneck Alumni and Friends,**

In my last letter, I wrote of the "Winds of Change at Western" and that Alumni must not stay on the sidelines. I challenged you to get involved. As I enter my second year as your president, I urge all of you to not only embrace the challenge, but also consider these examples of HOW you can and must make a positive difference for Western.

Here's how YOU can make a difference NOW:

### **Be informed ... NOW!**

Know the facts about Western. Be wary of inaccurate rumors, social media traffic and even newspaper articles about the "state of Western" and other Illinois state universities. A major announcement was made in July of a new reorganization that will prepare Western not just now but for the future. Our University leadership has never been more challenged or more critically in need of our support than now and in the coming years. Please go the WIU website ([wiu.edu](http://wiu.edu)) for details of this exciting strategic plan that will be the blueprint of success for Western for years to come.

### **Reconnect with your Alma Mater ... NOW!**

I encourage you ... no, I urge you, to take a trip back to Macomb and visit the campus and the town that made your college days so special. Much has changed yet much remains the same from the days when you attended Western. The campus has never looked better with the new recreation center, revamped and upgraded Student Union, Corbin-Olson remake, football stadium and other athletic facilities upgrades. You won't even recognize your Alumni House—so beautiful.

What remains is the tradition of when you attended Western. The town even has new hotels and a Buffalo Wild Wings! I still miss the Roe Boat, Walt's Office and The Black Bull Taco House, but the new establishments are great. Come back to Western and rekindle those golden moments and that special spirit that made you so proud to be a Leatherneck—make a new and lasting memory.

### **Do something to help Western ... NOW!**

People often ask me, "John, what can I do to help Western?"

You can help now with your time, influence and dollars. Every Western graduate has one of these three resources:

**Time** - Make it a point to not just talk about attending an alumni event in your area--make the time to attend it and bring three or four of your fellow alumni that you still stay in touch with, and perhaps consider starting with Homecoming 2018.

**Influence** - Never has there been a more competitive playing field for incoming students to colleges and universities, especially in the state of Illinois. If you have a child or know of a high school junior or senior and can talk about Western personally, you will have helped recruit a talented freshman or maybe a group of friends from the same high school start a trend to GO PURPLE! If thousands of you commit to doing this, one can only imagine the impact to our enrollment numbers now and in the future.

**Dollars** - You are all aware of the financial struggles with the state of Illinois and the impact on Western. Although it has stabilized a bit, we must approach our financial model much differently than when most of us attended Western—almost like a private university in terms of financial funding and management. Please consider giving to Western during the year to support programs and students so future young men and women can enjoy the Western tradition and Leatherneck pride you cherish, and they so richly deserve. Planned giving programs are another excellent way to leave a legacy to your alma mater that will have meaning and live on forever. Every dollar makes a difference!

**We can do this. YOU can do this. Make a difference NOW!** You will feel great knowing that you are changing the world for the students of Western for the better and for the future. The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones that do. **LETS DO THIS!**

### **GO WESTERN!**

John Sanders '74  
President, WIU Alumni Council



P.S. Feel free to contact me directly at any time at [johnesanders98@yahoo.com](mailto:johnesanders98@yahoo.com). When was the last time you visited Western? #WIUHomecoming 2018 is September 28-29 ... be there!





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