

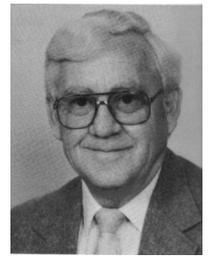


Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 7, Issue 4

November, 2005

New WAFABoard Formed



Jane Hansen Brown (1975)

Dorothy Baack Klemme (1966)

Wayne Marty (1953)

Jeffrey Neary (1981)

Mary Potter Peschek (1971)

Kaylyn Busch Pick (1988)

Leon Scott

At the Oct. 10 board meeting, new by-laws were approved stating that (a) The association's governing board shall be a Board of 7 members serving staggered 2-year terms with three elected one year and four the next year with no term limits. (b) Board members will be selected annually in the fall by the current board.

The Board meets quarterly in January, April, July, and October and all meetings are open to the general membership of the Association.

Jane Brown graduated from Westmar in 1975. She and her husband, Kent (1971), have three sons. Two of them are in the banking business and one is attending the University of Iowa.

Brown is an insurance agent for Midwest Insurance Associates.

As president of the board, she is interested in helping to preserve the Westmar memories and provide functions to keep Westmar friends in touch with each other.

She has been on the board for two years and would like to expand the website, continue to update alumni info so more people will be aware of reunions.

Dorothy Klemme has been a long time volunteer in Westmar activities after graduating in 1966. Klemme served on the Alumni Committee before the college closed. She has two sons and five grandchildren.

Dr. Wayne Marty, 1953 graduate of Westmar, returned to teach Biology from 1959 until his retirement in 1994.

His wife, June, is also a graduate of 1953.

They have three children, Alan, Lynnae, and Mike. Six grandchildren ranging from 4 to 17 bless their family.

The reason Wayne chose to be on the WAFABoard was that "Westmar has been a major component of our family life."

Dr. Marty was on the WAFABoard prior to the closing of Westmar and continually since. He hopes to see the membership grow and to continue to have successful reunions.

Jeffrey Neary graduated in 1981 and is currently a District Court Judge for the Third Judicial District of Iowa.

His wife, Kathy (1982) is a teacher at Gehlen Catholic in Le Mars. They have two children.

Neary said he chose to be on the WAFABoard because, "My memories of Westmar are some of my most treasured ones. I want to see that Westmar continues to live on in our hearts and minds.

This is Neary's third year on the WAFABoard and he would like to see WAFABestablish some good solid income streams from the sale and licensing of memorabilia. He would also like to see WAFABestablish a scholarship endowment for Westmar connected kids.

He suggests, "If folks have not attended a reunion, they really do not know what they have missed. Our Westmar memories come alive and we got to relive those old times when we gather and nothing beats that."

Kaylyn (Busch) Pick graduated in 1988 and lives in Le Mars with her husband and three children. She is the Le Mars Center Director

for Beuna Vista University. She said, "I am involved in the organization to keep the Westmar spirit and legacy remembered."

Mary (Potter) Peshek, is a graduate of 1971 and was the registrar at Westmar from 1989-1997. Since 1998 she is the registrar at Morningside College in Sioux City. She and her husband Bill, live in Le Mars.

Peshek has been on the WAFABoard since it's beginning and would "like to see the membership continue to grow and participation from more members. I would also like to see the various reunions continue and increase in attendance.

When asked why she joined the WAFABoard, Peshek said, "It is a chance to work with and for Westmar alumni and friends. It is also a chance to help keep the Westmar spirit alive."

Leon Scott was a Westmar professor of Psychology, Academic Dean and Acting President on two occasions (1991-1992 and 1994).

Inside this issue:

Alumni News & Deaths	2
Look Back Series	2
Alice Kruse Story	4
Mini Reunion & Events Photos	5
Membership Form	6
Contact Info	6



Alumni news

News

1955-Lois (Walker) Keck is making jam, jelly, and pies at Garrity's Prairie Gardens in Mission Hill, South Dakota.

1997-Chad Vollmecke obtained his Masters in Administration in Dec. 2003. He continues to teach English and coaches football and wrestling. Last year he was appointed the head wrestling coach and is also the weight training coach for all sports. In April 2004, Chad and his wife Jami were blessed with a

7 day old baby to foster. They were finally able to adopt Dru Diamond on May 20, 2005. Their little miracle, Isaac Joseph John was born on June 14, 2005. They live in Waukee, Iowa.

Deaths

1937-Margaret (Lucas) Riedel died in Memphis, Tennessee on Sept. 27, 2005.

1949-Warren G. Stamp entered his eternal reward on Aug. 10, 2005.

1961-Joseph W. Stratton died on Oct.

19, 2005 in Ames, Iowa.

1963-George Abwunza, passed away on June 28, 2005.

1969-Patsy King Kaus died on Oct. 18, 2005 after an extended illness. She lived and coached in Holstein for many years.

1973-Dale Saltmarsh passed away on Sept. 10, 2005 after falling from a ladder a few days earlier.

1973-1976-Claribel E. Larson, Bonebrake housemother, died in Ames, Iowa on July 7, 2005.

A Look Back Across the Decades

The following are excerpts from *The Glean*.

September 21, 1942: WUC Now is Accredited; Member of Central Assn. Of Colleges

Western Union college has been admitted into the Central Association of Colleges, a national organization with a new basis for college accrediting on a high standard.

Final inspection of the college buildings and general facilities was carried out by Dr. O.M. Miller, president of the association. His extensive tour of the campus began with a trip to the airport. Dr. Miller first saw the college from the air and was thereafter taken to the various buildings.

To gain admission into the Central association the member colleges are required to set out certain educational objectives. The application for admission follows a long period of work gathering data. This began over a year ago at Western Union college and last March the information was taken by Dr. Kime to Cincinnati where it was presented at the opening of the annual meeting of the Central Association of Colleges. The college has since been accepted into the association. Along with the data required for membership is the sampling of the college graduates as to the individual success in their respective professions, particularly those in the teaching profession. Facilities for carrying out the college's educational objectives must meet high standards.

No immediate results are looked for from the admissions of the college into the association. Western Union college has long been an accredited member of the state association.

Dr. Kime was naturally pleased because

Western Union now ranks with all other first-class colleges as to the recognition accorded its students when they go to teach or go to other schools.

October 1, 1952: No Football for this Year's Eagles

The "pigskin parade" of 1952 has already begun, but the Golden Eagles of Westmar College will not be marching in it this year.

Many returning students were startled and surprised at the sudden decision of the Athletic Committee and the Faculty Council to drop intercollegiate football from the college curriculum. "Why?" was the first question of most students and many people interested.

The answer lies partially in the fact that only 21 men reported for pre-season practice. Little hope was maintained at that time that the number would increase when school began.

Realizing the hopelessness of attaining a successful season and also the possible serious consequences of playing injured players, the athletic committee advised the council that it was not feasible to enter the rugged Iowa Conference with a team that would lack depth and experience.

As to why there were not more men reporting for football, one can assume several reasons. The chief reason as stated by coach Crayne and president Kime is that in order to comply with the North Central accrediting regulations, Westmar refused to grant any athletic scholarships and subsidies.

A statement from the North Central Manual of Accreditation reads: "Since colleges and universities exist to educate students and not to sponsor athletic contests nor entertain the public, the subsidization of athletes as ath-

letes is disapproved."

President Kim stated that Westmar, who is seeking admission into the North Central Association, is also seeking to do her best to meet their requirements.

Those people who miss the welcome sounds and thrills of the grid-iron will undoubtedly find consolation in noting that Westmar's dropping of football was done largely because the college placed academic standing ahead of extra-curricular activities.

October 18, 1962: Westmar Looks Forward, Considers Plans to Expand

Westmar has been looking to the future. As once being considered a small college, it is expanding rapidly; for the past three years, enrollment has increased 40 percent.

Anticipating further expansion, the administration and the board of trustees have had plans drawn up for housing and educational buildings which will accommodate 850 students in the future. Instead of having a haphazard building program, our leaders hired the Robert Porter Development Planner of Des Moines to plot out several possible plans of where the buildings, parking lots and streets would be located. Four different plans were drawn up. These "miniature maps" are in the lounge of Weidler on exhibit for students to see what Westmar might look like in 10 or 15 years.

The first structure which is in the immediate plans is a girls dorm. This dorm will accommodate 116 girls. A detailed floor plan of what will be contained in the dorm is also in Weidler lounge. A grant of \$37,500 was given to Westmar last year. This money will

(A Look Back continued on page 3)



Larson's Leaving Le Mars

Dr. Art and Betty Lou Larson, long time Westmar history and music professors moved from Le Mars in November to be closer to their daughter. Their new address is:

Art and Betty Lou Larson
19 Portage Trail
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379



Betty Lou
and
Art Larson



(A Look Back continued from page 2)
be used for the new girls dorm.

The other definite buildings which will be built include a new science hall, more dorms for men and women, a gymnasium and possibly a fine arts building for plays and concerts. The new educational buildings will offer more classroom space and office space.

In the process of building, some of the older buildings will be torn down. Schulenburg, Poling and Union are among these. New buildings will eventually crowd out these houses and dorms and will be replaced by some of the most modern buildings in construction.

One of the plans will eliminate 10th street completely so there will not be any driving on campus. Other plans include circular drives, a water fountain, new tennis courts and better parking facilities.

Once again, all of these plans are for your observation and any complaints or better ideas are welcomed by our administration.

October 10, 1972: Women's Flashball Rough and Tough

Not to be outdone by the guys, women's intramurals took on a new sport, flashball. Many of the rules are the same as the guys, except the teams are allowed 5 downs rather than 4 and there is no exchange of hands of ball, when the ball is grounded. The gals participate as whole heartedly and with as much spirit as the guys teams. If you don't believe it, just ask a certain freshman who has a black eye and stitches to prove it.

3WBb, 2N & SWn, 4N — S Wn came out on top downing 2E Bb, 2WBB and Eastview 6-3 in a rough and tumble game.

3E Bb fell victim to 1 W Bb, by a score of 2-0. If you get tired of the guys games, come to the girls for a laugh or two.

Editor's note: There was an action photo that went along with this story and the caption read, "Women intramural gridders left to right are Lynn Johnson, Nancy Friedrichsen, Linda Harris, Carla Riessen, Gwen Hoekstra (with the ball), Diane Lindquist, Barb Fleming, Ede Breimeier, Joyce Kaiser, and Nancy Troxel.

March 10, 1982: Paint your room or bunk your bed (by Larry Meyer)

Tired of looking at those same old dull dorm rooms and halls? If so, Westmar's territoriality program might be for you. The program has already led to some imaginative wall designs in many residence halls.

According to Assistant Dean of Students Bruce Storey the purpose of the program is to allow students to "personalize their own space by painting, building bunk beds, or lofts ... anything they want to do within reason."

Diamond-Vogel Paint, Inc. has donated 300 gallons of paint to aid the program, Storey said. Plans are also available for building bunk beds. Students wishing to become involved in the program need only to contact Storey for approval.

To help promote interest in the redecorating program, Storey said cash prizes will be offered for the best decorated floor and best decorated room. Deadline for entry in March 16. The rooms and floors will be judged on neatness, color, originality, use of space, use of theme, creativity and uniformity.

So far response to the program has been "generally good" according to Storey. Several rooms and halls have already been painted, he said.

The program began last year as an experiment in Memorial Hall, Storey said and

added that ideally, the program will continue.

November 20, 1992: Obituary: Old Friend of Mock Library Passes On (by Jami Van Ryswyk)

After four years of being in a "coma," TWU Mock library's card catalog has finally been laid to rest.

In 1988, with the arrival of the computerized on-line catalog, OPAC, the traditional card catalog was phased out. No new cards have been added to the files since 1988, but the wooden card catalog files remained in the library for use.

In early November of this year, the decision was made by librarian Janet Wiener to remove the files. Wiener said that she and her staff "saw no purpose for the cards. Almost everything in our library is now (cataloged) on the OPAC system." Wiener said that there are bound to be some people who have depended upon the card catalog for their information, even though the card catalog "died" four years ago. For those people, who must now learn the OPAC computer system, Wiener emphasizes that help is available. Anyone with questions about OPAC operation may ask library personnel for help. Kim Sether, extension 2023, is on hand for further questions.

In conjunction with the new importance of the OPAC system, Wiener has announced a contest. She says that many schools give their OPAC system another; one unique to that particular school. Wiener says she would like to see that here. The contest runs until December 11. Anyone with ideas of possible names for the OPAC should submit them to personnel at the library circulation desk or by campus mail.

Be sure to check out our new and improved, ever-changing website at:
<http://www.westmar.org/>
Suggestions are always welcome.

Do you have any Westmar items you would like to donate to the Archives or for room display?

Contact Westmar by mail or e-mail. Addresses are listed on the back of this newsletter.

The Alice Kruse Story

Alice Kruse is well known and remembered by many Westmar Alumni because she served the Westmar community for so many years. During her early years as a faculty member she lived in Wernli Hall and ate her meals with the students. Later she had her own house just half a block from the college library. From 1973 when she retired to 1999 when she moved away from Le Mars, she continued to remain actively engaged in college activities. She knew and encouraged the student athletes and regularly attended the basketball and football games. Alice was also a regular and dependable volunteer in the Westmar Development office. The closing of the college in 1997 was difficult but adjusting to change was not a new experience for Alice.

Alice was born near Clay Center, Nebraska in 1907 into a closely knit family that was deeply religious. Their social life centered around their church and rural school district.

Since Alice loved school, it was no wonder that she was a teacher for 43 years, retiring in 1973. She began her school days in Clay Center's East Lynn District 46 at age five. She still remembers her eighth grade teacher who helped her become more confident and urged her to be more aggressive in using her natural gifts.

When Alice began high school, her family moved into town to be close to the school since it was difficult to get to school in inclement weather and education was very important to her family.

At the age of 17 Alice completed the college preparatory program to qualify to take the 18 state examinations to become a rural teacher. "I passed and so, at barely 17 years old, I received a provisional rural teaching certificate. I taught in a nearby rural school for one year."

*What was the attraction that would bring an eighteen year old from southern Nebraska to Le Mars, Iowa in the fall of 1925? Western Union College! Enthralled, I had listened to a touring men's quartet from there, sing. That decided it! I would become a part of Western Union College – my church college.

What fun getting there! At each of three train changes additional young people joined our increasingly noisy group. I learned the college song before I reached the campus.

Wernli Hall (with a lavatory in every room) was new. The unfinished rooms of second and third floors-south wing-provided excellent space for storing trunks and stringing clothes lines for drying laundry. The spacious living room served as student union

for the campus.

New Dubs Memorial accommodated administration, classes, library and literary club rooms. Thoren Hall provided music and science labs and the chapel for daily services. Athletic practices and school parties found space in the small frame gymnasium. Interscholastic games utilized McDuffie Field and the public school gymnasium.

After years of out-of-town teaching I was drawn back to the college in a new role. It was great to teach those highly motivated war veterans of 1946! A number of them went on to graduate school in three years.

In 1948 we became Westmar College. We were wonderfully alive. Over 1100 students were enrolled by the 1970's. As Director of Humanities I needed 27 copies of the agenda for our meetings. We were known for being innovative and provided much leadership for a very active College of Mid-America group. It was a privilege to be part of it all.

"O Westmar College we love thee, We love thee well!"*

After graduation from Western Union College in 1929, she struggled along with others to find work during the years of the national economic depression. She acquired work in Chicago for one year and then joined two of her 1929 classmates, Esther Merkle and Miriam Faust, as a teacher at the Red Bird Mission in the Kentucky Appalachian Mountains. She taught for 16 years, from 1930 to 1946, in that rugged location where the local transportation was often only by riding a mule. She received her M. A. degree in English from the University of Kentucky in 1943.

Alice returned to Westmar in 1946 as a professor of English. She was head of the English Department from 1960 through 1972. She retired from her teaching in 1973. Because of her outstanding teaching career, because of her continuing active involvement in many college activities, and because of her monetary generosity in helping start new churches and by providing scholarships for students in need, she was presented with the Westmar Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987 and the Westmar University Legion of Heritage Award in 1996.

Alice's class, the class of 1929, donated the large concrete letters (WUC) that for many years were located on the northwest corner of the Westmar campus. In 2003 when those letters were being moved to the Westmar Memorial Park entrance, a time capsule was unearthed. Most of the items in



Alice Kruse (1929)

it had been destroyed, but the first page of a packet of papers was readable. Several names with short quips were listed. Alice Kruse was one of them. Under her name it reads,

"If you love to see a bright eyed lassie
Just cast your eyes this way,
She's blond and fair, has golden hair,
And likes it just that way."

Many have benefited from the life of Alice Kruse while her hair gradually turned from the golden to the grey. We should all be thankful.

* The paragraphs between the asterisks were written by Alice Kruse for the Plymouth County Heritage Book of 1998.

Alice Kruse would enjoy hearing from her former students and colleagues but responses from her will be unlikely because of her vision and writing difficulties.

Alice Kruse
Crowell Memorial Home
245 South 22nd St.

80's Decade Reunion
will be July 8, 2006.
Watch for more
information.



Mini Reunions and Events



A day to remember—

On August 15, 2005, Barb (Colson) Smith entertained eight Westmar friends at her home in Longmont, Colorado where they talked about old times. Front row: Wanda (Powell) Schneider (1960), Beth (Cerka) Tubach (1960), Audrey (Wenzel) Carey (1961). Back row: Virginia (Huppe) Bitterly (1960), Barb (Colson) Smith (1962), Sharon Kay (Smith) McCormick (1960), Betty (Durrett) Moellenberg (1961), Donna Houser (1961), and Gaylia (Feind) Weber (1961).



Gathering at Archie's—

Eight Westmar Alumni from the early 50's met in Le Mars on October 13. It is significant that they had dinner together that evening at Archie's because none of them ate at Archie's in the 50's. Archie's was considered "Off Limits" in the 50's because of the Bar and Westmar had a No Alcohol and No Smoking policy. Pictured are June Asplund Marty, Wayne Marty, Esther Winborn Handsacker, Doris Block Mitts, Joan Hilgenfeld Zoeller, Ken Zoeller, Donna Heim Epley, and Lloyd Epley.



Westmar Room away from home—

The "Westmar Room" at the Salem United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa was the scene of a mini reunion recently. The display was put together by Jan Reese Hutchison (1960). On Oct. 9 Jan had a lunch for Westmar Alums from the area after church.



Westmar Christmas Tree—

A Christmas tree was decorated and displayed at the Le Mars Convention Center (former Westmar Commons) as part of the Floyd Valley Hospital's Festival of Trees held Nov. 12.

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WESTMAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
335 FIRST AVENUE S.W.
LE MARS, IOWA 51031



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Show your Westmar spirit!
Do you know classmates or other Westmar alums who are not yet WAFAs members? Ask them to send information and yearly dues to the office in Le Mars to be included in future mailings.

Contact us!
WAFAs e-mail address
westmar@lemarscomm.net

Visit our newly remodeled website
at <http://www.westmar.org/>

Current Members: You will receive a postcard when it is time to renew your membership. Please pass the form below on to other Westmar Alum so they can be part of the momentum also.

What's Happening with You? Tell Us!

We are interested in knowing what has recently (or not so recently) happened in your life. Promotions? Marriage? Births or deaths? Honors or awards? Graduate degree? Semi- or full retirement? Pass on the information so we can print it and spread the good news!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Class year _____ Spouse also an alum _____

Other relatives also alums _____

News (attach a separate sheet if needed) _____

Return to: WAFAs
335 First Ave. S.W.
Le Mars, Iowa 51031
Or e-mail to: westmar@lemarscomm.net



Westmar Alumni & Friends Association

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address, if available _____

Attended Westmar _____ to _____ Class of _____

Membership fee: Single \$15.00 \$ _____

Couples \$25.00 \$ _____

Yearbook copies __ Years _____ \$ _____
(\$5.00 each)

Maintenance of Westmar Memory Room \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Return this form to:

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335 First Avenue S.W.
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

Please make check payable to WAFAs



To avoid cutting your newsletter, these forms can be copied or printed from website and mailed to us.