



Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 8, Issue 1

February, 2006

Summer 2006 Reunions Being Planned

Three reunion groups will be meeting this summer during two reunion weekends. Graduates from the Decade of the 1980s along with those having gone on a Biology Study Trip will reminisce on the weekend of July 7-9, 2006.

Registration begins July 7 from 5 – 9 p.m. at the Le Mars Convention Center (former Westmar Commons) for both groups.

Friday evening begins with the Bio Trip “dinner” around the “Little Blue Trailer” and continues with the Biology Trip Reviews. The reviews continue on Saturday morning. Afterward, those reunion attendees are free to join the rest of the reu-

ion weekend festivities which will include golf, a campus tour, activities around Le Mars on your own, a banquet, worship at United Methodist Church and lunch in the Church basement.

A complete schedule and registration form can be found on our website: <http://www.westmar.org>. Letters have been sent out containing details.

A fifty-year reunion will be held for the Class of 1956 on the weekend of July 21-23, 2006.

This weekend reunion starts with registration and visiting at the Plymouth County Historical Museum’s ‘Old Central

Gym’ from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on July 21. Attractions will include dinner at Archie’s Waeside, campus tour, lunch at the Museum, a banquet, Sunday worship at United Methodist Church of Le Mars, lunch in the Church basement and farewells.

Reservations for either reunion weekend may be mailed to our office (WAFA; 335 1st Ave. S.W.; Le Mars, IA 51031) or made online at our website: <http://www.westmar.org>.

Questions about the reunions may be made by e-mailing westmar@lemarscomm.net.

Name _____	First _____	Last _____	Class _____	Email _____
Name _____	First _____	(Maiden) Last _____	Class _____	Email _____
Golf, Sat. AM: 9-holes, Number _____ (Pay Green fees that day)	Fri. Biology Trip meal: Number _____ @ \$5.00 \$ _____			
Golf, Sat. PM: 18-holes, Number _____ (Pay Green fees that day)	Sat. dinner: Number _____ @ \$18.00 each \$ _____			
Decade of 80s and Biology Trip Reunion		Sun. Noon: Number _____ @ \$8.50 each \$ _____		
Registration Deadline: June 30, 2006		TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ <input type="text"/>		
Make checks payable to WAFA and send to: WAFA; 335 First Avenue SW; Le Mars, IA 51031				

Name _____	First _____	Last _____	Class _____	Email _____
Name _____	First _____	(Maiden) Last _____	Class _____	Email _____
Registration Fee: (includes lunch and banquet on Saturday, lunch on Sunday, use of Museum facilities and gratuity to church) Number _____ @ \$35.00 each = \$ _____				
Class of 1956 – Deadline: July 14, 2006		TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ <input type="text"/>		
Make checks payable to WAFA and send to: WAFA; 335 First Avenue SW; Le Mars, IA 51031				

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Alumni news

News

1956-Eldon G. Nolte is a retired pastor living in Des Moines and is currently serving two U.M. Churches part-time.

1956-James Rielly is a retired Iowa District Judge and was appointed as a Senior Iowa District Court Judge and he continues to serve in that capacity on a part-time basis as needed.

1960-Stanley E. Schmidt recently directed Handel's Messiah performed by the Voices of Omaha. He has guest conducted a number of choirs including the Mormon

Tabernacle Choir. He is now retired.

1963-Larry and Mary (1962) Ellingson of Marquette, Michigan celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary on Dec. 22, 2005.

1968-Dennis and Janice (Baier) (1968) Trometer celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Jan. 23, 2006. They have lived on a farm at Jamaica, Iowa for the past 13 years. Dennis retired as a National Bank Examiner for the OCC in 1995 and farms full time now. Janice is a full-time substitute teacher. Their daughter Chrissy (1992) is married to Matt Westendorf.

They also have a son, Vince, and two grandsons.

Deaths

Olga Lange, mother of Carol Lange (1965), passed away on Dec. 20, 2005.

Early 50s-Rev. Kenneth I. Clawson, pastor of the "College Church" passed away on January 13, 2006.

1953-1977-Dr. Merrill Davis, Professor of Religion died on Dec. 22, 2005 at his home in Sierra Vista, AZ.

1962-Thomas Nipp of Merrill, Iowa passed away on Dec. 31, 2005.

Westmar Kansas Reunion Date Announced

A group of alums of long standing, formerly the Kansas Conference Kids, is holding its next Reunion at Forest Park in Topeka, Kansas on May 25 and 26. Warren Mugler ('44) was the first president of the club which was organized in 1941. From the 1941 Eagle we learn, "Meetings are held irregularly and are for the promotion of social life. There are no scholastic requisites."

Currently, the group meets every two years and has opened its ranks to anyone interested in attending. The name is now Westmar Kansas Reunion.

For more information about this year's meeting, please contact Chuck and Harriet Semke. 3790 Lawndale Ln. N. Apt. 322, Plymouth, MN 55446, csemke@usfamily.net

A Look Back Across the Decades

The following are excerpts from *The Gleam*.

April 14, 1943: Construct New Runway At College Airport

Friday, April 9, four, twelve to fifteen cubic yard scoops, large caterpillar tractors and bulldozers started to move over 30,000 cubic yards of earth to make way for a new east-west runway at the Western Union Airport. The project, which is expected to take ten days, is being done by Clark Brothers Company of Sioux City, Iowa.

The reason for this new runway is to provide for more flying days. It is located north of the buildings. The three runways at the air field at the present go north and south, southwest and northeast, and northwest and southeast. The new east-west runway will be one-half mile long and about 350 feet wide.

A headquarters building from the C.C.C. camp at Alcester, South Dakota, is being moved to the airport. The new building will be used for the administration offices and as headquarters for the flight instructors. It is expected that the present regis-

trar's office will be used as a study room for the cadets while waiting for their turn to fly.

A new contingent of naval aviation cadets is expected to arrive on April 16th. In this group there will be twenty-five elementary and twenty intermediate cadets. At this time Union Hall will become a barracks. From now on, Western Union will receive fifty new cadets every four weeks. According to the Naval Aviation Cadet Board all of these will come from St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minnesota, where they had the Pre-Flight course.

Recently Dr. A.R. Hershberger spent ten days indoctrination in navigation at St. Olaf's College. The purpose of this trip was to learn what is to be expected from the cadets in their navigation courses here.

Coach Elyer Wendlandt was sent to Iowa City to study the physical education program there and see how to build an obstacle course which is now under construction on the football field.

January 17, 1953: Athletic director Crayne Resigns Coaching Post

Dick Crayne, director of athletics and

head football and track coach since 1939 will resign his post this coming June.

Mr. Crayne is well known for his football prowess. A graduate of the University of Iowa in 1937, he was Iowa's football captain in 1935, was selected All-American back in 1936. He also played in the Shrine East-West game and the All-Star game in 1936, played professional football two years with the Brooklyn Dodgers, and was backfield coach at the University of Kansas before coming here.

Coach Crayne's strongest football team was in 1940 when they won seven and lost one. Being at the helm of Westmar football continuously except from July 1942 to 1946 when he was in the Medical Corps reconditioning combat men, Crayne has a nine year period record of 35 won, 32 lost, and 6 tied. His '46 and '47 teams were co-title holders of the Dakota-Iowa Conference, the only conference titles won by a Westmar College athletic team.

Getting the athletic program up to a college level and replacing out-dated and inferior equipment are Mr. Crayne's lasting contributions to the Westmar College ath-

(A Look Back continued on page 3)



(A Look Back continued from page 2)

letic program.

A few of the stars, like himself, developed through the years of coaching are Jim Tanner and Bud Amundsen, All-Iowa Conference guards, Russ McLaughlin, Bill Lamb, Joe Cocherall, Bucky Wolters, Newell Jones, and Vic Grothaus, holder of Iowa Conference shot put and discus records.

Continual demands as a speaker because of his humor and sound thinking testify to his popularity. Dedication of the 1949 EAGLE to him is a tribute to his friendliness and interest in college students. Many successful Westmar graduated coaches and businessmen throughout a wide area are the examples of Coach Crayne's ability in producing men.

May 16, 1963: \$1,100,000 Housing Program Soon to be Underway Here

President H.H. Kalas today announced bids for a \$1,100,000 building program at Westmar will be let June 13.

The largest unit is a new women's residence hall for 232 women. The building will have three floors on a U-shaped plan, with a central lounge, recreation and study area. It will be located south of Wernli.

The existing Koehler and Memorial halls will be altered to accommodate 52 additional men. A connection lounge will be built between the two present buildings. Next year, men will live in Koehler and the new addition, and women in Memorial. After next year, the combination will house only men.

An apartment group for married students with 16 single bedroom and eight double bedroom apartments will be constructed, south of the present hut area.

The Koehler-Memorial addition will be finished this fall, while the new women's residence and the apartments are scheduled to be finished in the fall of 1964.

Architectural work is being done by Johnson-Jamerson associates of Cedar Falls. Westmar business manager Donald Payne is in charge of the project.

The program is being financed through federal government Housing and Home agency.

February 6, 1973: Superior Brain on its Way

Progress is currently underway on installation of a full computer system at Westmar College, with completion of the project in Kime Science Hall expected in late

February.

According to Stephen E. Jones, faculty coordinator for computer operations and assistant professor in mathematics, the new IBM 1130 system will enhance a number of Westmar academic programs in which students will find the computer an asset.

Academic uses of the computer, according to Jones, include test scoring and analysis, offering courses in computer programming languages, and creation of models for simulation.

For example, Jones explains, specifically designed computer programs will permit a biology class to simulate the effects of varying environmental factors on a fish population, or will facilitate an economic computation of gross national product, based on designated variables.

For the past four years, Westmar has jointly owned and operated with Morning-side College a computer center in Sioux City, with keypunch facilities in Kime Hall at Westmar. This arrangement will be terminated on March 1, 1973.

"Within the last year, our 25-hour weekly allotment of time at the Sioux City center has been filled to capacity," said Walter H. Williams, Westmar business manager. "In order to adequately prepare for our anticipated future needs, we have decided to move forward with our own computer plans now," he added.

"The experience of our recent graduates shows that those who acquired knowledge of computer operations have found it a definite asset to their future employment prospects," noted Joseph J. Hamilton, computer operations coordinator at the college.

"Part of the reason for deciding to install a complete computer operation on campus," he added, "stems from the commitment of Westmar College as an institution to offering our graduates the best future opportunities."

Current plans call for informing Westmar faculty members of the capabilities and uses of the system through various workshops and instructional sessions during the coming weeks.

In addition to its academic benefits, the new computer will be utilized for several administrative functions, including payroll tabulation, registration and student record keeping, billing, and long-range planning.

October 5, 1983: 151 New Students Enrolled

As of September 16, 1983, there are 506 students on the Westmar campus taking

full-time and part-time courses this academic year.

In breaking down the numbers, President Richardson noted, "We had an increase of 4 percent over last year in our number of new freshman students. Our rate of retention of current students was the best rate we have experienced in 14 years.

The total includes 114 new freshman and 41 new transfers on campus.

"Our admissions team set a goal of 150 new students including transfers. Their commitment and hard work paid off as 151 new students are enrolled. Our new Vice President for Enrollment and Retention, Mr. Cal Lyons, has an excellent team with which to work. We are already looking forward to next year, when we will at least equal if not exceed our efforts of this year."

Compared to the year before, there was an increase in both transfers and the college's full-time equivalency.

January 29, 1993: Golden Connection Underway

The new students arrived early and enthusiastically registered for courses they have been wanting to take. The students are participating in TWU's new Golden Connection program that lets persons age 65 and up attend classes with no tuition charge.

"We are very pleased with the response that we have had to this exciting new program," said Joyce Allard, TWU Director of Communications. Over 21 persons signed up for classes during the special registration on January 12 and 15. Professors and assistants helped with course selection, provided tours, and gave additional orientation information.

Interested persons were able to sign up for any course offered at TWU. A high school diploma or the equivalent was the only prerequisite. Students are responsible for purchasing their textbooks. The program is sponsored by the Golden Adventure Club, the Good Neighbors Club, and the Prime Time Health Network which are retirement clubs of local banks and hospitals.

"I think the program is an excellent idea," said Don Lake, a retired farmer from Le Mars. He continued, "It builds a good rapport with the community and I think older people can add a lot to a class. Their experience is valuable." Don is taking a course in computer concepts.

Balm-Demmel tells her story

I came to Westmar College in the fall of 1950. The library was brand new that year, and I helped pay my college expenses by working there and jerking sodas at Lovely Drug Store for twenty-five cents an hour. In my four years at Westmar, students came from Panama to Germany, California to Brooklyn, and Minnesota to Texas. At that time, Westmar had a strong two-year teacher program, and a business clerical program.

Classes, study, and work still left time for me to participate in many extra-curricular activities, which broadened my experience and added to my education and preparation for the future. Student government, Sigma Tau Delta (English fraternity), YWCA, Future Teachers of America, Student Volunteers, band, chorus, church choir, the *Eagle* (yearbook) and *Gleam* (newspaper) staffs all helped to prepare me for future responsibilities.

After graduating with a major in English and a teaching certificate in the spring of 1954, I went off to help put my new husband through his last two years of seminary. I have told my students through the years that English teachers can do anything. Even though my teaching certificate was for secondary education, I taught upper elementary grades several times, and substituted in many areas in the schools where I lived as a clergy spouse. Sometimes I even taught English, directed plays, coached speech contestants (and even cheerleaders), and served as school librarian—all at the same time.

I also mothered three sons and a daughter (and occasionally some foster children).

I earned my MA degree and a permanent teaching certificate from the University of Northern Iowa in 1968. Shortly thereafter, my husband was appointed to be the pastor of the “college” church in Le Mars, and we

returned to “the scene of the crime.” (My Westmar senior class had helped pour footings for the Calvary Church building on our senior skip day in 1954.) During the years we lived in Le Mars, I taught English part time at Westmar (with Alice Kruse, a former teacher of mine, as head of the department). I also developed a thriving Home Interiors and Gifts business during those years.

After leaving Le Mars, I spent two years at the University of Iowa completing course work and written and oral exams for a PhD. Then, being single again, I worked in the marketing department of a national business based in Waterloo, Iowa. After six years of that, I got up the nerve to quit my job and go back to school—this time to seminary to answer a persistent, long-time call into ordained ministry. (Back in the 50’s the Evangelical United Brethren Church didn’t ordain women. The Albright fellowship at Westmar was exclusively male.)

While completing seminary, I served as a student pastor and then stayed on at that church and took on another one for a full time appointment after my seminary graduation with a Master of Divinity in December 1987. I was ordained an elder by Bishop Rueben Job (a Westmar classmate) in 1990. While attending seminary, I met Gary Demmel, whom I married in 1987. I became stepmother to his son and daughter.

I remained in my first pastoral appointment until being appointed by Bishop Charles Jordan to his Cabinet as superintendent of the Sioux City District. I was the fourth woman to serve as an Iowa Conference district superintendent and the first to serve the Sioux City District. After serving in that position for six and a half years, the last half year as dean of the Cabinet, the newly appointed bishop to the Iowa Area asked me to serve as his assis-



**Darline Miller Balm-Demmel
(1954)**

bishop in the Iowa Annual Conference. While serving on the conference level, I was a delegate to three jurisdictional conferences and two general conferences.

I retired upon reaching mandatory retirement age in July, 2004. Gary and I now reside in Cedar Falls, Iowa. We enjoy traveling, especially in our RV, and spending a bit more time with our family. I occasionally fill the pulpit for a vacationing pastor or lead Consecration stewardship events in local churches. I still serve on several conference and district committees and boards, and Gary and I are both actively involved at St. Timothy’s United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

I thank God for my Westmar education, which was much more than course work and credit hours. It not only prepared me for my planned vocation, but also for the several unplanned turns my vocational life and personal life have taken. The fifty plus years (how did all those years pass so quickly?) since my days as a Westmar college student have been filled with blessings—some pain, much joy. I have learned during those years that a Westmar College graduate can do anything.

Corrections

It appears that the final line in Alice Kruse’s address in the November newsletter was cut off. Her complete address is: Alice Kruse; Crowell Memorial Home; 245 South 22nd St.; Blair, NE 68008.

A lady in the Archie’s Waeside photo was misidentified. The 4th lady from the left is Marilyn Haynes Geis.

We are sorry for the errors.

Westmar Endowment Scholarship

Students interested in applying for the Westmar Endowment Scholarship can pick up a form at the Westmar Alumni office, Plymouth County Historical Museum, or their high school guidance counselor.

To be eligible for consideration of a scholarship, the student must currently be a resident of Northwest Iowa and have a Westmar connection such as alumni, former staff and former faculty of Westmar as

well as their children and grandchildren. Or they must be a resident of Le Mars. The final consideration would be if the applicant has a Westmar connection such as alumni, former staff and former faculty of Westmar as well as their children and grandchildren. Full guidelines and requirements are explained in the application.

Application deadline is April 15, 2006. Winners will be announced in May.



Letters—Past and Present

To the Wafa Board:

On behalf of my great-grandfather, Jacob Wernli, and the entire Wernli family, I would like to thank Jane (Brown) and the Wafa board for your continuing efforts to preserve the legacy of what started out as a tiny Normal School and grew into a fully accredited College. Westmar not only greatly benefited the students who attended it, but the whole town of Le Mars.

Even before his immigration to America from Switzerland, Jacob strived to improve the quality of education. As Superintendent of schools, he traveled for weeks on end visiting schools in Northwest Iowa and surrounding states helping teachers augment their teaching skills and curriculums so their pupils would receive the best quality education possible.

His efforts to form a state funded Normal School were met with much adversity, but his belief in advancing education through the training of teachers was so strong, he and an associate formed their own Normal and business School in Le Mars, thus giving birth to what one day would become Westmar College. I am extremely proud of what my great-grandfather accomplished in his lifetime.

In 1973 I received a degree in Business Education from Westmar. My four years there gave me the education and the tools I needed to go on and live a productive, fulfilled, and happy life. I made lifelong friends as well as lifetime memories. Unfortunately, I am the last of the Wernli heirs to graduate from Westmar. By the time my son was ready to attend college, Westmar had closed its doors.

I moved to Boston in August of 1973 where my husband attended graduate school at MIT. I worked for Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company becoming an editor in the Reference Division. In 1980 our son was born. In 1989 I attended design school and received a degree in Interior Design. I now work as a

decorating consultant in Lexington, Mass. I love my life in New England, but will always cherish my years growing up in Le Mars and attending Westmar.

Sincerely, Barbara Wernli Collins
December 20, 2005

Dear Mr. Harty,

As an alumnus of York College, Suma cum laude, 1941, I want to express my appreciation for your service to Westmar University. The demise of an institution is painful for those who are directly involved. It is also a tragedy for humanity. You have helped a great institution to depart with dignity.

I also appreciate the students who were willing to enroll at a critical, final moment. I hope that these courageous young people find a good place in other educational institutions and a worthy place in the future of humanity.

My grandfather, William Denny Auchard was a student in Lane University (1865-1909), Le Compton, Kansas. Lane was the United Brethren College which Eisenhauers parents, my grandfather and two great uncles attended Lane in the late 1880s or early 1890s. My two uncles were both ministers in the church of the United Brethren in Christ. Lane was succeeded by Campbell College in Holton, Kansas, Kansas City University and York. My wife's relatives, Dr. A. V. Howland, was the last president of York College.

The demise of these institutions is a reminder of the changes that characterize human history. I was recently reminded that the first four communities in which I resided 1920-35 all qualify as ghost towns. May Day, Kansas, marked by a green sign on a county road in Riley County, is now a field. Randolph, Kansas is buried beneath the water impounded by Tuttle Creek Dam. The Island with sufficient population to constitute a school district in Neosho

County Kansas where I was a boy is now inhabited by two retired ladies. The land is cultivated by farmers living on higher ground. Ozawkie, Kansas is now partially buried beneath the waters of the Perry Reservoir in Jefferson County, Kansas.

No elementary or secondary school I attended still exists. The church of the United Brethren in Christ represented a movement older than Methodism. It was the product of a unique interface between the Reformed tradition and the Evangelical Church in 1946 to become the E.U.B. Church and was submerged in Methodism in 1968. The president of a United Methodist Seminary once said to me, "The Methodists are having a hard time digesting the United Brethren."

My mother was a graduate of Bonebrake Theological Seminary in Dayton in 1919. United Theological Seminary (United Methodist) is the heir to Bonebrake. My mother chose not to be ordained. The United Brethren ordained woman as early as 1889 and licensed women as exhorters or preachers as early as 1859. The chaplain of Kansas State Penitentiary in 1870 was a woman licensed to preach by the United Brethren in Christ.

I am a Presbyterian by conviction and choice, but I have a deep and growing appreciation of my United Brethren heritage. York College made a unique and endearing contribution to many lives.

While I never had the privilege of being closely connected with Westmar, I am sure that this college continued a great intellectual and spiritual tradition.

I commend you as one who had the courage and the commitment to face a seemingly impossible task, and to close a great chapter in the history of our culture with grace.

Sincerely yours, Edward Auchard
December 31, 1997

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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

Be sure to check out our new and improved, ever-changing website at: <http://www.westmar.org/>. We now offer online shopping, membership, and reunion registration. Suggestions are always welcome.

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 _____

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Attended Westmar _____ to _____ Class of _____

Membership fee: Single \$15.00 \$ _____

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Maintenance of Westmar Memory Room \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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