



# Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 8, Issue 2

May, 2006

## Myrtle Braun – 100 Years of Memories

Myrtle Braun has been a busy lady during her lifetime. She was born on a farm near Hinton on March 6, 1906. Her parents were William and Elizabeth Schindel.

Braun graduated from Hinton High School in 1924 and went on to attend Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. She then taught in country school for three years.

In 1927 she married Clarence Braun and they farmed for more than 30 years. During that time, Myrtle raised two children, Betty and Bill while tending the garden and chickens.

She was also a 4-H leader for the Johnson Junior Homemakers.

After retiring from the farm the Brauns moved to Le Mars. Clarence and Bill owned the Skelly station while Myrtle

worked at Fry Jewelry and then Westmar College.

While at Westmar, she worked in the mailroom for 18 years and retired as supervisor.

Clarence died in 1966 and Myrtle continued to live on her own until moving into Brentwood Good Samaritan Village in September 2004.

Her family includes daughter Betty Hesse and daughter-in-law, Bar Braun of Le Mars. Her grandchildren are: Sharon and Tim Russell of Sergeant Bluff, Alan Hesse of Walpole, Mass., and Shelli and Shane Wiersma-Hill of Cocoa, Fla.; three great-grandsons and is awaiting the birth of twin great-grandchildren in Florida. Son Bill is deceased.



**Myrtle Braun at the birthday party Good Samaritan Village had for her on her 100th birthday.** (Photo contributed by the Le Mars Daily Sentinel and Beverly Van Buskirk.)

## Kime Science Center Still for Sale

After sitting empty for nearly 8 years, there has been two parties interested in the Kime Science Center in the last year.

Last May word came that the Le Mars City Council had accepted an offer from the American College of Pharmacy, Westmar University, Inc. with the college due to open its doors in September 2006.

In September 2005 things fell apart. The representatives of the pharmacy college weren't able to follow through on their plans and defaulted on the sale agreement.

Next came a rather interesting offer from Robert Delutri from St. Paul, Minn. His proposal to the city was to purchase the Kime Science Center with \$100,000 of his art work.

Delutri planned on using the property for

his Artxtech Research Lab featuring multiple research labs, photographic studios, and process workshops.

After discussion, Delutri revised his proposal saying that he would lease the building from the City for \$1 a year for a five-year period. He also stated that he would pay the cost of utilities and his expenses, but that the City pay for the maintenance of the roof and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

With a unanimous vote, the City Council declined the proposal.

Anyone interested in any of the remaining Westmar property should visit the following website for more information: <http://www.lemarsiowa.com/campus/>.

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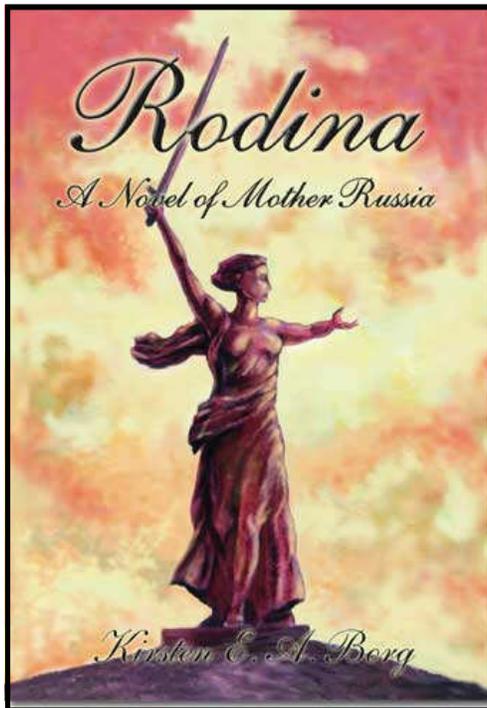
# Former Westmar Professor Publishes Book

“My novel is a direct result of my first visit to Russia in 1987,” stated Kirsten Borg, associate professor of History and Political Science at Westmar from 1975 to 1983.

This isn’t Borg’s first published book. In 1987 she published a nonfiction book entitled *The Place I Call Home: What’s Wrong with U.S. and What We Can Do About It*.

Borg moved to Le Mars in 1975 from the Chicago area. Her husband Chuck Mertes is originally from Le Mars. Mertes, whose father was once the sheriff of Plymouth County, did the artwork for the cover of the book. Daughter Elisabeth is a 1990 graduate of Le Mars Community School.

The book may be purchased through the Trafford website <http://www.trafford.com/05-2774> for \$31.95 or Borg can be contacted directly at [kborg2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kborg2003@yahoo.com) where the book sells for \$26.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.



the lore of the forest; Ekaterina, the village midwife who trains her as a healer; Mikhail, the chanter whose booming voice inspires her to sing; Ivan, the dedicated village priest whom she marries.

When Evgenia’s children grow up, they go off to Petersburg. Lisya, the eldest, plays violin in the orchestra of the glittering Maryinsky Opera. Tatiana, the youngest, dances in the elegant Imperial Ballet. Vladimir, their brother, leaves his Orthodox seminary to become a zealous bolshevik. Against the colorful and violent backdrop of the Russian Revolution, they experience war and terror, idealism and inspiration.

Evgenia herself eventually joins her children in Petersburg – now Leningrad – where her granddaughter, Katya, works at the great Hermitage Art Museum. When the Nazis invade, Katya’s husband, Alexei, goes off to fight at Stalingrad. Katya and her children are caught in the 900-day siege of Leningrad, as are Evgenia and Lisya. Together, all four generations join the heroic battle to defend the Motherland – and to survive.

**Book Description:**

***Rodina A Novel of Mother Russia***

Rodina – in Russian, the Motherland – is about a Russian family and the tumultuous times through which they live. It tells the story of Evgenia, a Russian woman who endures the upheavals of her beleaguered homeland and personifies Rodina’s strength. It is also about Evgenia’s courageous daughters, the dedicated men they

love, and the passions which propel all of their eventful lives. The saga opens in 1861, the year of the Great Emancipation – and Evgenia’s birth. Her life unfolds in Derevnia, a village on the Volga, among people whose life is hard but also filled with beauty and joy. Amid the contradictions of her peasant environment, Evgenia grows up within a warm community of strong individuals: Bushka, the wisewoman who teaches her

RODINA is about brave men who know how to die, strong women who know how to endure, and a firmly rooted family that sustains them through the tragedy of Russian History. And in these inspiring characters, RODINA shows us what is possible when humanity lives up to its potential.

Reminder – If you’ve moved, gotten married or divorced, changed e-mail addresses, changed phone numbers, or had a spouse die, please let us know the correct information so we can record it on our database. Please use the form below or e-mail us at [westmar@lemarscomm.net](mailto:westmar@lemarscomm.net).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**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.



# Alumni News

## News

**1956-Eldon G. Nolte** is a retired pastor who is currently serving Mingo and Farrar U.M. Churches part time.

**1959-Donna (Weidemier) Gollihar** has opened her own insurance agency, Black Hills Insurance Services, and is loving it. She keeps active insuring homes, farms,

ranches, autos and enjoys eight grandchildren.

**1966-Janice (Devolt) Christensen** retired from teaching most recently at Dallas Center-Grimes after 25 years.

**1972-Stuart McCord** retired from teaching at Lawton Bronson Community School for 33 years.

## Deaths

**1948-Marian (Miller) Dalvey** died on April 6, 2006 in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

**1956-Carolyn (Coppock) Dunphy** passed away on Nov. 17, 2000.

**1972-Donna (Schulz) Hemmelman** died on Feb. 23, 2006.

## Westmar Graduate's Program Teaches Students About DNA

Excerpts from an article in the Feb. 25, 2006 edition of *The Des Moines Register*. Mike Zeller graduated from Westmar in 1975 with a degree in Biology.

**Davenport, Ia.**—It was the case of the farmer's chewed shoes.

There were four suspects: all dogs.

None of the dogs was talking, so it was up to the Davenport West High School advanced placement biology class to use DNA evidence to pinpoint the culprit.

And it was up to Mike Zeller, the bio-

technology outreach educator from Iowa State University, to teach them how to do it.

"It gives them exposure to cutting-edge technology," said Zeller, who visits high school classrooms across Iowa, giving students an introduction to the biotechnology field.

Since 1988, ISU's biotechnology public education program has been teaching Iowans about the science behind 21st-century biotechnology developments and the asso-

ciated economic, ethical and social issues.

Zeller said he wants to make the students aware of how quickly the biotechnology field is expanding.

"These kids don't realize that McDonald's has been around longer than we've known about DNA. And just look at what's been done in the last 50 years. We use genetic engineering to do everything now," he said.

## A Look Back Across the Decades

The following are excerpts from *The Glean*.

### January 31, 1944: Naval Cadet Program to End By June 30

President Kime received word from the Civil Aeronautics Administration that the Navy Cadet program will terminate by June 30, 1944 and perhaps sooner. The letter reads:

"It is apparent that as the war proceeds, emphasis in the conduct of training for the armed services must be shifted from the training of large numbers of men to the training of those needed as replacements to maintain the authorized establishments, and that the total volume of aviation training will diminish. Looking ahead some months, the Navy Department has come to the conclusion that by the middle of this year it will have enough training capacity of its own to handle all of the primary flight training required by its pilots.

"The Navy Department has accordingly informed this office (CAA) that it has come to the conclusion that 'it will be advisable to terminate its use of the civilian facilities under contract with the Civil

Aeronautics Administration War Training Service'. The Navy Department states further that 'discontinuance of this program is in no way indicative of dissatisfaction with the training performed. The Navy recognizes and is grateful for the splendid work which the CAA War Training Service organization has accomplished in training Navy pilots at a time when the need for such pilots was most urgent and when the Navy could not handle all the training required. The decision to discontinue the training is due simply to the fact that the Navy will be able to handle the entire primary load at its own stations.' The letter from the Navy Department states further that the Department 'appreciates deeply the wholehearted cooperation which your organization and the colleges, schools, and flight operators it represents has shown in helping Naval Aviation through one of the most critical periods in its entire existence.'

"I must, therefore, advise you that according to the present plans of the Navy Department, as communicated to this Ad-

ministration, the training activities in which your are engaged under contract with the CAA will terminate not later than the date of completion of the training session scheduled to commence in May of this year. It must be emphasized, however, that training may be terminated at an earlier date..."

This does not mean that the Aviation program is to end. Plans are now being made to offer both ground and flight aviation classes to high school teachers, both men and women, during the summer session.

### February 27, 1954: Sleepy Students? No! It's An Assignment

I've heard of students sleeping in class during a lecture but never before have I heard of the teacher furnishing beds for students to use during the class period.

Have you been to the home economics living room lately? Don't look too hard for it; I'm warning you in advance. Instead of a living room you will find a hospital unit.

The eighteen members of the home nurs-

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(A Look Back continued from page 3)

ing night class, under the direction of Mrs. G. O. Thompson, are learning how to care for the sick in the home; consequently two beds have been installed and other necessary equipment is at hand. The American Red Cross has furnished all the equipment needed by the class. When the course is completed the girls, if they complete all the work, will qualify for the Red Cross home nursing certificate.

The Red Cross three point learning program is: see how to do it, read how to do it, and do it. Because they learn from actual experience, the girls have agreed to take turns being the patient—in other words they get to go to bed during class time.

When this unit is completed, Miss Allen will take over the class and start a unit in family health. Two of the big problems to be taken up in this unit are care of the old folks and obesity, the number one health problem in the country.

### **January 31, 1964: Release Latest Plans for Student Housing**

Memorial hall will "very probably" remain coed next year, according to President H. H. Kalas. Wernli hall will become a freshmen men's residence hall.

Construction of a new girls' dormitory would have left many rooms unfilled in Wernli, presently used as a women's residence. Under the present plans, the 230-woman capacity of the new building and the space for 80-odd women in Memorial will provide housing for all Westmar women.

Part of a plan to move as many students as possible into campus housing, the project also calls for housing men in Bachman, Schulenburg and Poling houses. Jones and Schell houses will remain as men's housing, and the number of students living in Overmiller will be decreased or the building sold.

There is a possibility that freshmen living in Wernli next year will have some restrictions. Dorm hours one hour later than those for coeds are being considered.

"We feel that we should continue our experiment in coeducational housing," Mr. Kalas said. He also commented that the college feels that the experiment has been "very successful" so far.

### **September 24, 1974: Rowdy Band Ready for Friday Game**

Rowdy band is back in action, and pre-

paring for its first appearance during pre-game of the Westmar-Yankton game Saturday afternoon.

This year, the 80-member band has adopted a slower, military "corps" style of marching which will be interspersed with the normal marching style.

Three drum majors have been selected to replace Dick Bardole who graduated last May.

New majors are James Packard, a freshman from Forest City; Loren Johnson, sophomore from Rutland, and Dave Rogers, a junior from Merville.

Twirler is Patti Groat, a freshman from Cedar Rapids.

Westmar pacesetters will also perform with the band during pre-game and half-time activities. Co-captains for this year are Nancy Scholten, and Cindy Wade, both juniors.

Choreographers for the pacesetters are Christie Ford and DeeDee Mitchell.

The flag corps has been expanded this year to 12 members who will march with the band carrying red and white flags.

Flag girls are Barb Fleming, Cheryl Dicke, Kathy Crouse, Nancy Wiese, Bev Larsen, Jane Tuchtenhagen, Paula Cross, Deb Whitnack, Deb Wade and Kathy Innis.

Rowdy band will perform during the other home games with themes of "The Way We Were" for homecoming, "Midnight Special" for the Northwestern game, and "Going Latin" for the parents' weekend game.

### **November 7, 1984: 13-4 Vote Keeps W.C. Open**

With a vote that could have legitimately closed the doors at Westmar, the Westmar College Board of Trustees voted 13-4 to keep this college open, and adopted a strategic plan to stabilize the current operating budget.

In their annual fall meeting, which began last Thursday, the Trustees were presented with a resolution to close the college.

"The students present were totally shocked by this," stated Mark Core, ASWC President. "We couldn't believe there was actually a chance we would be closing." Faculty members expressed equal surprise at the announcement of the resolution.

After presentations both in favor and in opposition to the resolution, and after the

discussions between the students, faculty and staff with the Board of Trustees, the resolution was put to vote Friday morning.

"I was really nervous," stated Core. "My stomach was tied in knots."

When the resolution was defeated, the Board then outlined a plan which rests on 3 concrete steps:

1) President Richardson and Attorney Mike Dull are to explore with the Attorney General of the state of Iowa the possibility of using unrestricted endowment and accrued earnings to eliminate up to 75 percent of the debt accruing since 1969.

Dull expressed optimism in receiving this endowment. He and Richardson travel to Des Moines to talk with the Attorney General asking if indeed we can use that money.

2) The College is to seek to establish a favorable rate of interest with local financial institutions to ease the cash flow through the 1984-85 school year.

3) A minimum goal of retaining and enrolling 420 full-time students for the fall of 1985-86 was approved.

These three steps are essential to the health of Westmar. According to Richardson, if any of these three fail, in whole or in part, we will face some "big problems," and the school will have a good chance of closing.

Other steps, however, have been taken to secure finances. The Board of Trustees will seek the assistance of leadership donors to the Lifesports/Industrial Education Center to make advanced payment on their pledges and assure completion of phase one.

Also 11 1/2 acres of land known as the "South 40" will be sold. This will bring in \$110,000. The Ladenberger Apartments, recently donated to the college will also be sold for approximately \$60,000.

Westmar will also continue the projects on campus to conserve energy and keep costs down. In addition, the Trustees have donated \$34,000 to the general fund.

And yesterday it was announced that Westmar received a challenge gift of \$100,000 from Dr. and Mrs. Berryhill from Fort Dodge.

The teachers here have also contributed \$2,000 from their own pockets as a token of their support for Westmar. The faculty expressed too that if the college would in fact have to close, they would volunteer their time and even conduct classes in their homes if necessary so that at least students could finish the semester.

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“I think this really shows the support generated by both the faculty and the whole campus,” stated one student.

Sunday evening an ASWC Senate meeting was held in which President Mark Core read an emotional statement in an attempt to “set the record straight.” Core explained to the students what had taken place at the Trustee meeting, giving insight to the seriousness of the situation.

“We are at a crossroads right now,” Core stated after the meeting. “Bankruptcy or prosperity. And I firmly believe we can make it to the latter.”

At the Senate meeting, Core outlined his and others’ reasons of financial crisis at Westmar. First, the overall health of the Midwestern farm economy has placed financial difficulty on many small colleges. This poor farm economy has also made it tough on banks in the area, which in turn reflects back to Westmar.

Also, while costs have risen up to 20% for colleges, federal aid to these colleges have remained the same for the last couple of years. This forces colleges to pick up the slack from other areas.

Another factor deals with enrollment of students. While projections of full-time students for this year were at 450, only 419 actually enrolled. Because Westmar is a tuition dependent college, this has drastically affected its finances.

Finally, our retention of students has been quite low. In 1982 only 14 students that entered Westmar as freshmen graduated here. In 1983 there were 18 such students, and in 1984 there were only 11.

Dean Steve Mason also spoke at the senate meeting expressing his optimism. “The fact that the Trustees were willing to forge ahead instead of doing the easy thing and closing it is cause for great hope.” he stated.

Although optimism is present among many, others express confusion toward the future of Westmar. “I’m not sure whether to stay or go,” said one student. “I would really love to stay, but I don’t know if it’s worth it.”

Of the three concrete steps of the financial plan, President Richardson and others feel quite confident about two of them. The endowment money is expected to come through and the favorable rates among financial institutions. This leaves us with the retention and enrollment of students.

Thus, many feel the power lies in the students. “If we all panic and let fear dictate our decisions,” a student stated, “Westmar will close.”

Another student expressed her faith in Westmar as an institution stating: “I was thinking of transferring before all this happened, but I believe in Westmar enough to stay and make sure it continues.”

**February 28, 1994: TWU Group Returns From EcoExploration**

A group of ten students and two faculty members from Teikyo Westmar University recently returned from an EcoExploration iterim in the Florida Keys. The group spent seven days in the Keys area studying the harmony and disharmony present in gulf marine ecosystems.

The trip was coordinated by Dr. Coralee Burch, professor of Communications, and David Hannie, professor of Chemistry. Burch and Hannie provided the students with an interdisciplinary focus on the ongoing inner conflict of a culture dependent on the environment for the resources it provided and the tourism it attracts. Residents of this area must preserve the ecosystem yet use it for their livelihood.

“Our goal was to provide the students

with information and experience that they can take with them,” stated Burch. The students spent the majority of their time learning about the different aspects of the marine ecosystems, then viewing or experiencing them firsthand. The students also used a textbook to complement what they were experiencing. In addition to required readings, each student was responsible for his own focus study.

On the last night of the trip, each student made a presentation of all that she had learned through applied experiences and the text. Topics presented were: mangroves, smuggling, recycling, hurricanes, geology, communication, everglades, and railroads and the overseas highway.

Other topics explored during the experience were: the three fundamental environments for sea life – sea grasses, mangroves, and reefs; freshwater issues; current and historic cultural origins and their impact on the use of the Keys; waste issues; and land use and management.

The EcoExploration participants received instruction in snorkeling, conducted laboratory activities, and were given an historic tour of the area. The group also experienced the forests, savannas, sloughs, and wildlife of the Florida Everglades, and visited the Florida Keys Estuary.

Junji Tanagawa, an International Speech and Communication major at TWU, participated in the EcoExploration and said he would recommend it to other students interested in the ocean or Florida. “I learned the most about mangroves and choral reefs,” he said, “especially how delicate they are and why they must be protected.”

Burch and Hannie hope that the EcoExploration interim program will become a foundation for future environmental, interdisciplinary programs at TWU.

**Schedule of Upcoming Events**

- **April 18, 2006:** Wafa Board of Directors meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth County Historical Museum. Alumni welcome.
- **May 25-26, 2006:** Westmar Kansas Reunion in Topeka, Kansas.
- **July 7-9, 2006:** Decade of the 80s and Biology Trip Reunion.
- **July 21-23, 2006:** 50-Year Reunion for the Class of 1956.
- **July 25, 2006:** Wafa Board of Directors meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth County Historical Museum. Alumni welcome.
- **October 24, 2006:** Wafa Board of Directors meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth County Historical Museum. Alumni welcome.

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 Wafa members? Ask them to send information and yearly dues to the office in Le Mars to be included in future mailings.*

**Contact us!**  
**Wafa 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: Wafa  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$10.00 each)

Maintenance of Westmar Memory Room \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:  
Wafa  
335 First Avenue S.W. *Please make check payable to Wafa*  
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

