

# Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 9, Issue 1

February, 2007

## Indoor Aquatic Center being Developed in Former 1941 Westmar Gym

Like so many of the other Westmar campus buildings, the 1941 Gym is getting a facelift in preparation for its new role as Aquatic Center.

According to the *Le Mars Daily Sentinel*, "The center will include a four-lane lap pool 75 feet long, a slide and splash pool with jets and geysers for children to play in, and a peanut-shaped therapeutic current channel that doubles as a lazy river for recreational use. That continuous channel will circulate in an area 40 by 20 feet. There will also be a sauna and whirlpool under the mezzanine.

"Aquatic Center funding is currently from a combination of sources, Community Betterment Project funds, private donations, and the CAT grant."

Bids were awarded in January 2006 and work to transform the gym into an indoor pool began in March 2006. The pool was dug in July. Some reunion attendees may remember seeing this part of the renovation through the window in a door during the campus tour.

KLEM Radio in Le Mars reported on February 6, that the pool ought to be open by the end of Feb-



The transformation from old gymnasium to Indoor Aquatic Center is nearing completion. With tile laid in the pool and current channel, workers will next begin plastering the pool and will install the play equipment when it arrives. (Photo by Magdalene Biesanz of the *Le Mars Daily Sentinel*.)

Watch for Reunion mailing in March

### Registration Form — Please return by June 15, 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last Class Email

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First (Maiden) Last Class Email

Saturday Noon Wrestling Picnic \_\_\_\_\_ (count only) freewill donation accepted

Saturday dinner: Num. \_\_\_\_\_ adults @ \$18.00 each by 6/15; \$23.00 after 6/15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ kids (under 14) @ \$8.00 each by 6/15; \$10 after 6/15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chorale Members, check your present voice part

S1 \_\_\_ S2 \_\_\_ A1 \_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_ T1 \_\_\_ T2 \_\_\_ B1 \_\_\_ B2 \_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Wafa** and send to:

Wafa  
335 First Avenue SW  
Le Mars, IA 51031

**Reunion 2007**

**July 14, 2007**

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# Alumni News

## News

**1955-E. Delphine Jewell** has retired from Northern Oklahoma College where she was the Chair of the Nursing Department for 12 years. She then retired a second time from three years as Missionary in charge of nursing school in Mutambara, Zimbabwe.

**1960-Virginia (Huppe) Bitterly** married David Mayo on Nov. 10, 2006 and the couple is living in Berthoud, Colo.

**1983-Craig Keast** is a Director of Development for Hot Stuff Foods and is responsible for a five state area in the Mid-

west opening fast food franchises.

**1983-Kristi (Baier) Keast** is the elementary music teacher in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. She got her Masters from the University of Iowa. Kristi and Craig have three children.

**1986-Zulkifly Md. Said** is working with the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board in Istanbul, Turkey. He is married and has two children.

**1993-Derrick Minor** is the director of "Westside Community Assets for Families in Minnesota," a non profit organization that he founded. He has also been coaching college and high school football for

the past 12 years.

**1992-William 'Bill' Freking** is married and living in Brandon, S.D. where he teaches fourth grade.

**1995-Deb (Freking) Williams** is married and living in Fayetteville, Ark., and is working at the University of Arkansas.

## Deaths

**Faculty-Kay Ellen Dull** of North Miami Beach, Fla., died on Nov. 13, 2006.

**1977-Deborah (Baxter) Freeman** of Tekamah, Neb., was killed in a car accident on December 17, 2006.

**1989-Kathy (Madson) Williams** died

## 1934 Graduate Writes Musical



Margaret (Winter) Hoorneman, Sanibel, Florida, wrote a script adapting Charles Dickens' classic "Great Expectations" to a musical. Her grandson, Brian VanDerWilt, a script editor, was instrumental in getting the script ready to become a play. This year (2006), out of 400 entries, the play won the national Broadway USA competition. Margaret, who is 92 years old and the first female valedictorian of

Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa, was initiated into P.E.O. in Le Mars in 1946. (*Taken from the July-August 2006 edition of "The P.E.O. Record."*)

Margaret's father, Clyde Leslie Winter, was the head of the Department of Biology at Western Union from 1911 to 1926. In January 1926 he was killed in an accident. He is remembered in the 1926 Pilot yearbook.

## Kirsten Borg Publishes Book

Right on the heels of last Spring's book, *Rodina, A Novel of Mother Russia*, former Westmar associate professor of History and Political Science, is promoting another book. Her newest venture is an updated version of a book first published in 1997: ***THE PLACE I CALL HOME What's Wrong with U.S. and What We Can DO about It*** (with Updated Preface and Afterword).

Borg recounts, "20 years ago, I published a Small Green Book about how to save the USA (and the world). My country was in trouble. I explained why and how to fix it.

"Today, my country is in even worse trouble – and for many of the same reasons. The remedies suggested in my Green Book still hold true.

"I have added a Preface and Afterword, updating the book and putting it in the context of the post-911 world.

"If you, too, love America (and the Earth), and are worried about its future, you should read ***THE PLACE I CALL HOME***. It explains the basic causes of our problems, shows how they interact, and charts a sensible direction toward healing that is grounded in the best of our traditions."

The author is well-read and well-traveled, an experienced teacher and rigorously truthful writer, loves the USA passionately and wants the world to be there for all our grandchildren. She has a Ph.D. in History, and has based her ideas on tons of very careful research.

The booklet with Updated Preface & Afterword can be purchased for \$3.00 (includes postage). The Book (hardback) & Updated Booklet cost \$13.00 (plus \$2.50 postage). Books may be purchased directory from Borg by writing:

Dr. Kirsten Borg  
Grandmeres, Unlimited

Do you have any published work that we could display in the Westmar Memory Room?

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

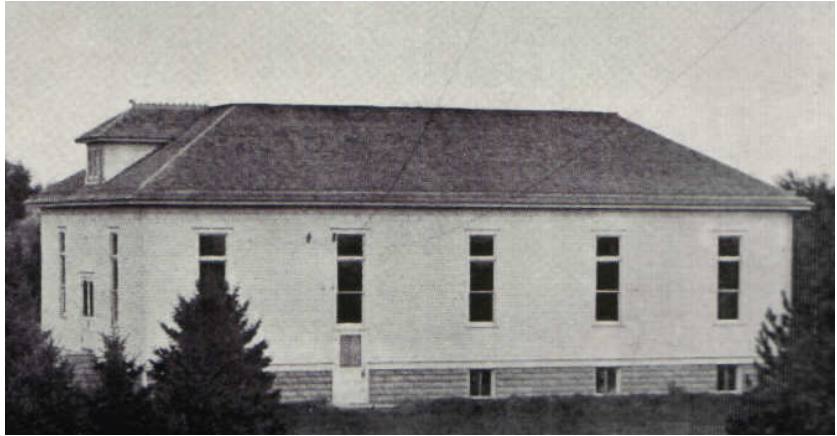


# Bricks and Mortar and More

## The Gymnasium

by Dr. Wayne Marty

"Western Union College, thanks to the liberality of its friends in Le Mars and abroad, has as fine a gymnasium as can be found in any school of its size. It was built during the fall of 1908, and has an available floor space of 2800 square feet, with bath and locker rooms in the basement. Lockers with combination locks have been provided and the building is being equipped with modern apparatus as rapidly as possible." — >From the 1914 Western Union Pilot (yearbook), p 41.



Gymnasium (from the 1914 Pilot Yearbook)

In 1908, "A fine gymnasium" had a different meaning. The game of basketball, invented in 1891, was still a new game and often played outdoors and in basements or barns. The new Western Union gymnasium had a playing floor of 70 ft. x 40 ft. in a building that was only 50 ft. x 75 ft. There was no room for spectators. (The official college floor of today is 84 ft. x 50 ft.) In 1908 A. G. Spalding was still selling "baskets" that were closed at the bottom (see picture) and when the ball



went into the basket it had to be "poked" out with a stick. But now Western Union College had a "fine" gymnasium that was used for the college practice and games until the much larger High School gym was built in 1925.

Paul Pfalzgraff of the class of 1944 remembers practicing in the tiny "cracker box" 1908 gym until the "new" gym was completed in 1941. He recalls the very cold practice conditions because of the poor heating system but

also the good times with teammate Jim Borsheim and Coach Dick Crayne. Paul's latter years at Western Union were during WW II when civilian males on campus were few and the college was actively involved in Naval Air Cadet training. The women's dormitory, Wernli Hall was occupied by the Naval Cadets who were on campus for six week periods and then moved on for further advanced training elsewhere. Paul recalls that during his senior year he was the only civilian player on the Western Union Basketball team. Eligibility rules were not rigorous and the cadets made up the remainder of the team as they were available throughout the season.

In the 1940's, when no longer needed for basketball, the white frame building became the Student Union with game tables and Square Dance space available on the gym floor. In the 50's, the basketball court "keyhole" and free throw lines were still clearly showing on the "dance floor". "Real" dancing was not permitted on the Westmar campus until rules were further relaxed in the 60's. The basement of the building was the Student Union snack bar. Wayne Marty in 1952, spent many hours in that basement space with President Kime (former Physics professor), trying to get the first television set on campus hooked up and operating.

The closest TV station available at that time was Omaha and the antenna for reception was placed on a tall unused tower that still stood west of the "new" 1941 gym.

In the late 1950's the white frame building was lowered, brick veneered, and renovated upstairs for the Home Economics Department and downstairs for the Art Department. The space contained multiple student kitchens, sewing space, and Dining Room. During the summers, Senior Home Economics students were required to enroll in "Home Management" which required them to live in the building for six weeks and experience "all that is involved" in running a home. Many girls will remember that group living experience. Social Customs class will also be remembered by many attending Westmar in the 60's and early 70's. It involved instruction in acceptable etiquette and manners and the highlight of the course was the Social Customs dinner served to invited Faculty members. It was an opportunity for the students (and the invited faculty) to demonstrate their best social behavior.

Art work with all varieties of media filled the downstairs space. The faculty artist, Bill Cookson, worked primarily with pottery and during his era in the late 60's, a kiln was constructed as an

(Continued on page 4)





## The Gymnasium is still in use today

*(Continued from page 3)*

In addition to the basement for firing the pottery work. In 1979 the Home Economics department was moved out of the building to Kime Science Hall and the growing Art department, under the direction of Gary Bowling, expanded to use the entire building. Bowling relates that, for several years the Art Club, as a money raising effort, set up a Halloween "Spook House" in the basement space. One year a real Hog's Head was used as one of the "amusement props". It worked well for the Spook House but was not appreciated by Freddie Goodchild, the director of campus maintenance, when some days later he found the Hog's Head deteriorating in one of

the campus dumpsters.

There was a major search for space in 1991 when the Theater and Dance Department from the recently closed Tarkio College in Missouri found a home on the Westmar campus. Now the basement became the costume and design work area for the Theater department. After Westmar College closed in 1997 and the buildings were all available for sale, this classic building was purchased by and became a personal Art Studio for Barbara Wells. However the most recent change was the gift of the building to the Le Mars Day Care non profit corporation. Major renovation of both levels, appropriate security systems, and handicapped

accessibility now enables this nearly 100 year old building to continue to make its contribution to the good life in Le Mars. A look through the access hole into the attic of this old building will reveal a beautiful varnished attic ceiling – the original ceiling of the "fine gymnasium" that was proudly used by the Western Union basketball team in 1908.

We invite your additional memories or corrections to this Gymnasium story and your notes will be added to the Gymnasium Archive File.

In the next newsletter we will discuss Dubs Memorial Hall built in 1920. Send us your memories now.



This year's Christmas tree was decorated by Dixie Kooiker. It was on display at the Holiday Festival sponsored by Floyd Valley Hospital in Le Mars. Decorated Christmas trees were displayed in the Le Mars Convention Center (former Westmar Commons).

## Transcript Storage Update

Since the last newsletter was published, we have received word that graduates of York College can get transcripts from the current York College and not from the University of Iowa.

A request for York transcripts may be faxed to 402-636-5623. You can also write to the Office of Registrar at 1125 East 8th Street; York, Neb., 68467. Another option is to use the college's website <http://www.york.edu/alumni/>.

Transcripts of Western Union, Westmar College, Teikyo Westmar University and Westmar University are at the University of Iowa.

To obtain those transcripts, write to Registrar's Office; University of Iowa; 1 Jessup Hall; Iowa City, IA 52242. Call 319-335-0230, or download a form from the University of Iowa website <http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/forms/transcript.form.pdf>.

## Printer for Sale

The alumni office has outgrown its Epson inkjet printer and purchased a color laser printer. You're reading the first newsletter produced in-house using the new printer.

The Epson printer still works and we will include a brand new black ink cartridge plus the black and color cartridges that we were using which are still about half full.

The model is Epson C42UX. It comes with a power cord, USB cable, manual and software. It would be a great printer for home or school. It can be yours for \$50, which includes the cost of shipping. Contact the alumni office if interested.



# Scholarships Made Available

Applications for the Westmar Endowment Scholarship administered by the Iowa College Foundation will be available soon in area high schools, the Westmar Alumni office in Le Mars, and online.

Two \$5000 scholarships, along with at least 15 \$1000 and up to 20 \$500 scholarships will be awarded in May.

Eligibility considerations are: 1. Students who are currently residents 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. 2. Students who are residents of Le Mars. 3. Applicants with Westmar connections such as alumni, former staff and former faculty of Westmar as well as their children and grandchildren.

The applicant must be a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior in the Fall of 2007, and must plan to attend one of Iowa College Foundation's colleges or universities as a full-time student and must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average to qualify for the \$5000 scholarship and at least a 2.5 grade point av-

erage for the remaining awards. If scholarship forms are not available in your area, contact the Westmar Alumni office to have one mailed to you. It is also available online at [www.iowacollegefoundation.org](http://www.iowacollegefoundation.org). Click on Westmar Endowment Scholarship Program which takes you to a paragraph about the program. Then choose "Click here to apply."

To ensure timely delivery and proper consideration, it is recommended that the scholarship information be sent certified or registered mail.



**Hahn's celebrate 50th Anniversary** – Juanita (Carpenter) (1958) and Samuel Hahn (1953) of Iowa City celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently. Their daughter, Eunice (Hahn) Mennenoh (1982) is pictured on the far right.

## Upcoming Westmar Alumni Dates

- **April 1:** Deadline for early registration for Reunion.
- **April 17:** Wafa board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Welcome Room of the Plymouth County Historical Museum. All members are welcome to attend.
- **June 15:** Deadline for Reunion registration.
- **July 14:** Reunion for the Decade of the 1990, Fine Arts, and Wrestlers. See <http://www.westmarcollege.org/Reunions.html> for details.
- **July 17:** Wafa board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Welcome Room of the Plymouth County Historical Museum. All members are welcome to attend.
- **October 16:** Wafa board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Welcome Room of the Plymouth County Historical Museum. All members are welcome to attend.

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



**Alumni Office Staff**

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker: Executive Director  
Mary Holub: Communications Director and  
Newsletter Editor

**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**

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 95

Be sure to check out our new and improved, ever-changing website at:  
<http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>. **Note change of website address.** We  
now offer online shopping, membership, and reunion registration. Sugges-  
tions 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 re-  
cently) 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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$10.00 each)

Unspecified \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Return this form to:

WAFAs  
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.**