



# Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 10, Issue 1

February, 2008

## August 2008 Reunions Planned

August 1, 2, and 3 are the days planned for two Westmar reunions. The class of 1958 will be having their 50-year reunion and the Decades of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s will join in the weekend's festivities.

The class of 1958 has invited the classes of 1956 through 1960. All meals will be shared, but there will be rooms reserved in the Plymouth County Historical Museum for individual decades to meet and reminisce. Everyone will be invited to activities, such as the Campus Tour.

Activities are planned beginning Friday afternoon and ending on Sunday with services at the United Methodist Church of Le Mars.

Bill Bishop has agreed to be the Master of Ceremonies ensuring an adequate dose of levity and Charlie Kehrberg will arrange some musical events to inspire or add more to the levity! A complete schedule is

posted on the alumni website ([www.WestmarCollege.org](http://www.WestmarCollege.org)).

If you have not been back to Le Mars, you would be surprised at what a wonderful museum has arisen in the old Central High School building with rooms devoted to the college. And Wayne Marty gives a wonderful tour of the campus with many good stories to add color to the sights. It has been fascinating to see what has happened to the boilers at the Heating Plant; the city gave them to a Hutterite colony in South Dakota who will use them to heat their barns!

Would you enjoy reading how classmates remember their lives being influenced by their experiences at Westmar College? By faculty, administrators, or friends? Or, perhaps through activities such as chapel, choir, church, the 7.30 a. m. student led prayer meetings, or Sunday afternoon singing at the hospital and

the retirement home? Other? If any of you would consider writing to Royal Speidel about the impact that Westmar College had on your life, he has agreed to receive, compile and share your stories with everyone. His address is 212 Lincolnshire Lane, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 or email at him at [rspeidel1@comcast.net](mailto:rspeidel1@comcast.net).

Please make sure to check the WAFAs website (<http://www.WestmarCollege.org>) for a list of classmates for which we don't have a current address. It can be found under "Links" and "Missing People." We don't want to leave anybody out.

Put the dates on your calendar right now! Reservations can be made by using the form below, printing a form from the website, or register online by using a credit card from the Westmar website.

Make your plans now as the Le Mars hotels and motels are already quite full for that weekend.

### Reunion Registration — Please return by July 1, 2008

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Friday evening: Le Mars Convention Center Number \_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday lunch: Museum Gym Number \_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday banquet: Museum Gym Number \_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday morning Coffee: Museum Lobby Number \_\_\_\_ No charge

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

Make checks payable to **WAFAs** and send to:  
WAFAs  
335 First Avenue SW  
Le Mars, IA 51031

Or pay on-line at [www.WestmarCollege.org](http://www.WestmarCollege.org)

Still receiving your newsletter by mail? If you have an email address, please consider helping us cut costs by allowing us to send a link to the newsletter file on the internet. We will email the link to you and you will be able to read the newsletter as long as you have the free Adobe Reader program. You will also be able to print a copy if you choose.

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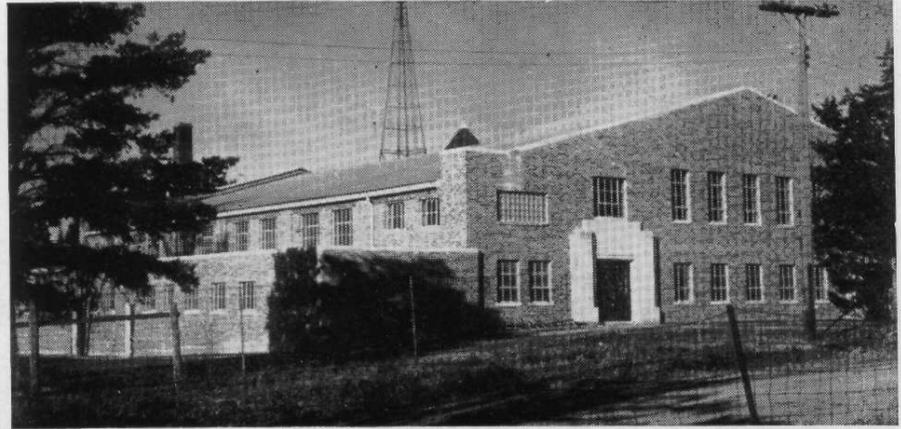
# Bricks and Mortar and More

## 1941 Gym

By Dr. Wayne Marty

Great accomplishments often begin with dreams and modification of those dreams may occur along the way. The March 29, 1939 Gleam published an architectural sketch of the proposed new Western Union gymnasium and announced the Board of Trustees' decision to raise funds for the project. Basketball had become a popular and rapidly growing sport following the design and introduction of the game in 1892. For two decades the game was often played in barns, sheds, basements and outdoors. Western Union College was a leader in Northwest Iowa when it constructed the 1908 gym with a 70 ft. by 40 ft. playing floor (Wafa Newsletter – February 2007). In 1925 the Le Mars High School built a new gym with a 74 ft by 46 ft. playing floor. Because of the larger size and spectator space many Western Union College games were played in the new High School gym. But there was a growing desire for the college to have a gym of its own with a college size playing floor.

The proposed design had a 90 ft. by 50 ft. playing floor and seating for 1000, with men's exercise rooms, dressing rooms, and showers on the south side and similar facilities for women on the north side. The floor plan published in the December 11, 1940 Gleam also shows a handball court on the west end and space labeled kitchen in the southeast corner near the entry. The dream was still alive and although the supply of building materials was questionable because of the possibility of joining England in the war against Nazi Germany, the building contracts were awarded and the corner stone was laid on June 15, 1941. However, the original "Dream" was reduced. No locker rooms were built on the north side, no handball court was built on the west, and the final main entry was much plainer than originally designed. The October 29, 1941 Gleam announced plans to dedicate the new gym on Dec. 17 "when the Golden Eagles meet the Parsons College Basketball team." Jim Borsheim, now age 90, was the captain of that team and remembers the crowds roar in the new gym during the 43 to 41 win over the Parsons defending Iowa Conference Champions. The furnishings for the new gym were also Spartan. No folding bleachers were installed until the late 50's and



**Gymnasium**

*(taken from the 1942 Eagle yearbook)*

wooden bleachers were moved from the football field to the gym as the athletic seasons changed.

The Dream and goal to win was constant in the minds of the many who competed within this space. Basketball greats were abundant – Jim Borsheim – star of the first team that played in this new gym in the 40's; Vic Grothaus, All Iowa Conference Center in the 50's; Jim Sutherland, set Iowa Collegiate scoring record in the 60's; Strathman and Cullinan in the early 70's, Prescott and Hutchinson in the 80's, and many, many others.

Wrestling under the leadership of Coach Milt Martin, Westmar Alum of 1953, brought crowds to the gym. Even though midway through the evening the score often indicated a clear Westmar team win, the crowd remained enthusiastic during each individual match and even the spectators often went home with muscle aches as they twisted on the bleachers trying to help the wrestlers get that pin. Woody Winters, 1968 National NAIA Champion, was involved in the Feb. 2, 1965 "Fiasco" during a decisive Heavy weight match with Wayne State, that brought the spectator crowd from the bleachers and resulted in a forfeited win for Westmar.

Within these gym walls, Wanda Chittenden's coaching and leadership skills brought women's basketball, and volleyball into prominence.

This new building provided for much more than just athletic events on the main floor. For many years the east balcony was the location for antiquated gymnastic equipment and tumbling mats. It was a space for cheer leading practice, overflow

crowds, and even play space for uninterested faculty kids during exciting games. Later the space was renovated for faculty offices.

Memories abound. The Track and Field Record Board used to hang in the north east corner with the 1950's Vic Grothaus records in the Discus and Shotput unchanging for many years. Popcorn was served from the northeast office window. Olsen's "Rowdy Band" rocked the gym in the 70's and the National Anthem was reverently sung prior to each athletic event. "Doc" Ersland attended to his many duties. In the 60's Ralph Allen often sat at his sewing machine in the Men's locker room mending football pants and jerseys. Water was mopped off the gym floor when pipes from the Heating Plant tunnel would occasionally break. There were the many graduations, and concerts and special lectures such as John Howard Griffin, author of "Black Like Me." There were Homecoming Banquets, Presidential Inaugurations, Carnivals, and Donkey Ball games. As Spring approached big nets would sometimes go up for indoor baseball practice. For some, the intramural basketball games were as significant as the varsity games. The required tight scheduling of the gym resulted in 10:00 PM to Midnight Soccer Club practices in the 90's. And remember the athletic halftime events. In the 50's tumbling and trampoline demonstrations filled the halftime space and in the 80's and 90's it was often drill and dance team performances.

The multipurpose use, desire for better

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Alumni News

## News

**1951-Dave Schneider** and wife **Esther (Spong) Schneider (1952)** reside at Coon Rapids, Minn. Dave is a retired United Methodist pastor who gives inspirational programs.

**1958-Ray Nacke** has been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

**1981-Jeffrey Neary** a district judge in Iowa's Third Judicial District has recently completed the Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills course. He was appointed to the bench in 2002.

**1987-Angela (Webb) Kneip** has been promoted to CFO and vice president of administration at BoDeans Baking Holding Company in Le Mars.

**1988-Mike Thomas** and wife **Cindy (Porter) Thomas (1989)** reside in Cedar Rapids and have two children. Cindy is a senior manager of HRIS for Rockwell Collins and Mike is an IT consultant who also coaches Jr. and Sr. High basketball and football.

**Faculty (1969 & 1970)-George B. Wood** lives in Springfield, Virginia where he is a contractor working with FEMA. He also plays the organ for a Lutheran Church.

## Deaths

**1932-Jean (Haner) Gallant** of Kearney, Neb., passed away on May 19, 2007.

**1941-Lucille (Bellwood) Gale** of Akron died on December 7, 2007.

**1945-Lawrence Marty** died on Oct. 2, 2007.

**1952-Warren Hayen** passed away on May 9, 2007.

**1953-1985, Faculty-Arthur Q. Larson** passed away on January 3, 2008.

**1956-Lloyd Molzen** died on January 15, 2008 in Le Mars.

**1958-Warren Duit** passed away on September 16, 2007.

**1960-Lyle Senseman** died on January 25, 2008.

**1962-63, Faculty-Louise Guild** passed away on Nov. 9, 2007, at age 95.

**1970-Linda (Byers) Weinert** died on January 27, 2007 in Omaha, Neb.

**1970-Philip R. Krieg, Jr.** of Scottsdale, Ariz., passed away on Dec. 24, 2007.

## Old Dubs Remembers

By Arthur Q. Larson

I am not ugly, no; nor really beautiful;  
A working building, I, square-standing in my dusk;  
All empty now, yet solid on my hill;

Handsome I just might be, with shrubs and grass well trimmed,  
With bricks tuck-pointed, new, and walks and windows clean,  
But shabby, now that they have let me go;

I make not claim of "class"; my style is workaday,  
Work done and goals achieved, by earnest thought and skill,  
Through sixty years of labor and faith;

The student names come back; young teachers, jocks, "pre-thes"  
The bright, the pluggers, all, made credits, met their loves,  
Most going on and out, to wider, larger lives;

And there were those who taught: tough Price, clear-voiced Miss  
Kruse, Firm "Mercy", wise "G.O.", huge learned Kempers too,  
And others more, who counseled, guided, cared;

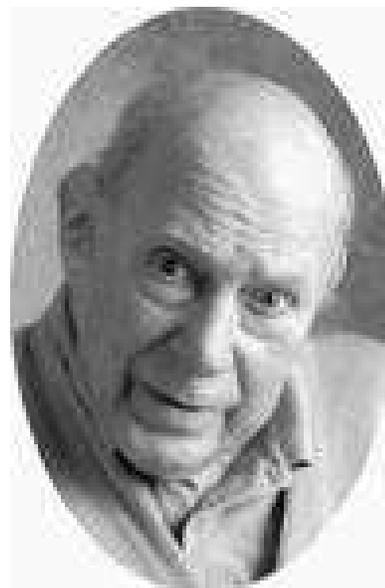
What happens now? They say that when the red leaves fall,  
Snow powders the air, and the chill fronts come down,  
It costs too much to keep me warm inside;

But for a little while, when all had gone from me,  
The graduates' class photos hung in the basement hall;  
If they could speak, would this mean ought to them?

Who knows? Might they not ask, what cost as vacancy?  
Where once were friends and dreams, points won and lost and

learned from;  
Upon the hill, what price has emptiness?

During his time at Westmar College, Art taught for many years in Dubs Hall. Here he reflects on how the building might have felt after the college had closed and it sat empty. Dubs was torn down several year ago (March 2002).



**Arthur Quentin Larson**  
May 4, 1920 - January 3, 2008



# Westmar Endowment Scholarship Program

*Taken from the Iowa College Foundation website*

[www.iowacollegefoundation.org/](http://www.iowacollegefoundation.org/)

The Iowa College Foundation (ICF) is an association of private colleges and universities in Iowa. Westmar became a member of the Iowa College Foundation in 1952 and received funds from ICF while a member. Following the closing of Westmar, in cooperation with the Westmar Alumni and Friends Association, ICF received funds from the Westmar Endowment to establish an endowment for scholarships. The Westmar Endowment Scholarship Program will sustain a sense of Westmar's ongoing presence in the educational life of the State of Iowa.

ICF plans to offer three types of scholarships annually from the Westmar Endowment Scholarship Program:

- (2) Presidential awards - \$5,000 each (can only be won once)
- (15+) \$1,000 awards
- (up to 20) \$500 awards

In addition, a Westmar University Student Association Scholarship up to \$1,000 will be awarded.

Selection of scholarship winners and administration of the program will be handled by ICF in cooperation with the

Alumni Association. Checks will be sent directly to the student's chosen institution, and will be applied to the cost of tuition, fees, and books.

The scholarships are for one year only, but may be renewed up to 3 more years; application for the awards can be submitted annually.

## ELIGIBILITY

Notwithstanding the following criteria, the Iowa College Foundation Selection Committee will select the best qualified students according to academic merit, commitment to community service, and leadership qualities.

- **First consideration** - 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. (*Northwest Iowa is defined as Plymouth, Cherokee, Ida, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Sioux and Woodbury Counties*)
- **Second consideration** - students who are residents of LeMars, Iowa.
- **Third consideration** - applicants with Westmar connections such as alumni, former staff and former faculty of Westmar as well as their children and grandchildren.

Applicant may be a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior beginning in the Fall of 2008, and must plan to attend one of ICF's member colleges or universities (or a satellite campus of an ICF institution) as a full-time student. Courses must be taken on the campus of the institution.

Applicant must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average to qualify for the "Presidential" award and at least a 2.5 grade point average for the remaining awards.

## APPLICATION

This application must be completed and submitted by **April 4th**.

**Official transcript of your grades for the last completed semester from the high school or college you are now attending must be postmarked by April 4 and forwarded to:**

Iowa College Foundation  
505 - 5th Avenue, Suite 1034  
Des Moines, IA 50309

## ESSAY

The essay should outline your personal and academic background and your goals for the future.

**Winners will be announced in May.**

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.

*(Continued from page 2)*

acoustics and the energy crunch of the 70's prompted the installation of the insulating suspended ceiling. This ceiling tile solution was not always compatible with the athletic use-particularly volleyball, and soccer, so replacement of tiles often had to precede any public event.

The west wall of the gym has special significance. On that wall hung the pennants representing the teams in the current athletic conference and the names changed through the years as conference alignments changed. During excavation for the construction of the new Life Sports Center in the 1980's, support for the west wall was weakened and Coach Milt Martin, hearing and then watching from his east balcony office observed the entire west wall col-

lapse into a pile of rubble. The wall was reconstructed along with the completion of the new Life Sports Center with a larger playing floor and more spectator space. However, heavy use of the 1941 gym continued. A new activity in the 90's was the continuous all night long 36 hour, "Thunderdome" indoor soccer tournament. A real challenge for the suspended ceiling tiles.

Finally when the college closed in 1997 the gym now owned by the City of Le Mars became part of the combined YMCA-City Recreation complex with its continued multiuse until it was dramatically changed and opened as the new Le Mars Aquatic Center in February of 2007. (Some details of this change were reported in the February 2007 Wafa Newsletter.)

The 1941 "New" gym has served well. There were game and match losses and some dreams were dashed but many dreams were fulfilled and are remembered.

Diann (Petersen) Terpstra (1993) recalls, "My favorite memory of the place was the wrestling matches in the "old gym." The bleachers were filled and it was exciting! I'll never forget the match when Ed Huff won the last match of the night to win the team dual and the whole crowd came out on the mat, which made the other team want to protest the win! The officials jetted out of there fast!"

The next newsletter will contain a story on the airport. Your stories and memories are welcome.



# Westmar Graduates are Found Everywhere

*Editor's Note: This is a portion of a letter from Norihiko Sakamoto (class of 1997) that he emailed to his host parent, Debb Vandehaar-Arens last November.*

This IS very very funny story. The thing was happen in Charleston. We visited Magnolia Plantation in SC before driving back to Ashville, NC. We met one of older generation couple. They were very kind couple because they asked me like "Shall I take a picture for you?" Our answer was "Yes, please." So, we also took a picture for them, too. Now, they asked us where we are from and those ordinally conversation went on. We asked them where they are coming from and

they came from Cedar Rapids, IA. Wow! So, I started to talk about my Iowa periods. Surprisingly, they knew about Teikyo Westmar University. Do you know why?? Because they also graduated Westmar University long time ago, as well!!!! What a coincidence. I got goose bumps when I heard about that. It's a small world, isn't it? Finally, I took a picture with them. I could not see any plantation garden because I was sooo excited for a while.

*Debb shared that the couple Nori met were Bill (1966) and DeeAnn (Eberhardt) (1968) Oliver.*



**Norihiko Sakamoto**  
(from the 1996 Eagle)

**Hy-Vee Pharmacy Employees are Westmar graduates.**

Tom Ryan (1974), Mike Arens (Creighton), Misty (Parriott) Frentress (1991), and Jeff Faber (1974)  
(Taken from a Le Mars Hy-Vee ad from October 2007.)

## Remember Westmar in Your Will

Many people choose to make their college a beneficiary of their estate. Even though Westmar has closed, it is still possible to support your college.

If your current will includes Westmar, it is time to make sure that it is amended to read "Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association; 335 First Avenue S.W., Le Mars, Iowa."

If you haven't thought about a gift to Westmar, please do so. Just as a guideline, it ought to be worded "I leave \$xxxx to Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association; 335 First Avenue S.W., Le Mars, Iowa." This will assure that your generosity will continue to support the

alumni association. Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association is a 501(c)(3) and as such we are considered a charitable organization. Speak to your attorney about a gift to your college.

Volume 10, Issue 1

February, 2008

WESTMAR UNIVERSITY 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!**  
**westmar@lemarscomm.net**

**http://www.WestmarCollege.org/**

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit org.  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Be sure to check out our new and improved, ever-changing website at: <http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>. We 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 \_\_\_\_\_

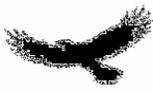
Class year \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse also an alum \_\_\_\_\_

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 University Alumni & Friends Assoc.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address, if available \_\_\_\_\_

Can we e-mail your newsletter?  Yes  No

Attended Westmar \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fee:**      **Single \$15.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Couples \$25.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yearbook copies \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
   (\$10.00 each)

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

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

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Le Mars, Iowa 51031



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