



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 11, Issue 1

February, 2009

New Alumni Directory

We Want You For The New Alumni Directory!

Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association would like to introduce the Western Union/Westmar Alumni Directory, the most comprehensive directory of Western Union/Westmar alumni ever published. The contents of the directory will be divided into four sections: Biographical, Geographical, Class Roster, and most importantly, the Introductory Section showcasing the school's history and events.

All efforts are being made to contact Western Union/Westmar alumni via phone, email and mail to obtain and verify biographical information.

Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association has contracted with Alumni Research, Inc. to collect and compile the information into a hardbound, library quality volume and an online community. This directory is being made available to Western Union/Westmar alumni only and is a limited edition press run and offered only one time.

Alumni Research, Inc. will soon be contacting those who have provided current telephone numbers and addresses to verify biographical information. Please help your alma mater to keep in touch with you.

Two Summer 2009 Reunions

The reunion of the Decade of the 1960s, Faculty, Staff, and Administration along with those involved in Football (coaches, players, cheerleaders) from all decades will be held July 10-12. The 50 year reunion of the class of 1959 (along with those from 1957-1961)

will be held Aug. 14-16. Pass the word on to your friends and former classmates since we don't have a current address for everyone. A registration form for the 60s Decade reunion can be found on page 3 and the 50 year reunion form can be found on page 5.

Don't forget to visit the website (www.WestmarCollege.org) for your memorabilia and membership needs. You can also register for the reunions online or print a form to mail. Keep us posted when you move or get a new email address also.

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association Board of Directors

Paul Coffin '75 (president)
Leon Scott '66-'97 faculty
Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff
Milt Martin '53 & fac. '63-'97
Jeff Neary '81
Denise Kolker '75
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The board meetings for 2009 will be held on Jan. 20, April 21, July 21, and Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

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Bricks and Mortar and More

Memorial-Koehler Complex by Dr. Wayne G. Marty

WW II was over and the number of men attending college with GI benefits was increasing. More housing for men was needed, so construction of Memorial Hall began with intended completion by the opening of school in the fall of 1947. But the target date was not met and the 60 guys assigned to Memorial Hall for housing were temporarily provided for by lining up double deck bunks, desks, and clothes racks in the gym. Can you imagine 60 men living together in one room for two months while the new dorm was being completed? There were pranks, guitar playing, singing, and even middle of the night basketball.

After two months of the communal living, the men moved into the new Memorial Hall and were welcomed at the entry with the Memorial Hall plaque honoring the 13 Western Union students killed during the war. The plaque is part of the Westmar collection now housed in the Plymouth County Historical Museum. The new housing was welcome but probably sparse by today's standards with one common bathroom on each floor. In addition to the two person rooms with small closets, there was a reception room with one telephone for the entire dorm, an apartment for the dorm matron, a basement social hall with a Ping-Pong table and a laundry room with one non-automatic washer and clothes lines.

Construction on a 2nd Men's dorm continued and Koehler Hall, with a reversed floor plan from Memorial, was opened for the fall semester of 1949. I arrived as a freshman and together with my older brother, Howard, moved into the 2nd floor southwest corner room overlooking the gym. My beginning of dorm living was smooth compared to Howard's, who was one of the 60 men that lived in the gym for two months in 1947.

Our living together was good. We had a few courses together so could study by yelling questions and answers across the room. Our dorm recreation sometimes included little wind-up cars that we would race in the hallways and a pair of fencing foils that made for good brotherly "fights" during break times.

A special occasion in the basement social space was a President's Tea arranged and

managed by Jim Zottnick. Jim was a big all-state football player from Montana who resisted freshman initiation directives that were commonly accepted at that time. This resulted in a few physical incidents but Jim had a softer side that led to the entertainment of President Kime in the basement social hall

with glass punch bowl and glass cups.

Memories include the slaughter of a muskrat that found its way into the dorm via the basement sewer. A contrasting animal memory would be my brother, Howard, a pre-theological student, baptizing a dog at the central hall drinking fountain.

Pranks were also a part of dorm life, like setting a bucket of water on a mop that is propped against a room door and then knocking. The occupant is doused when he opens the inward swinging door. And the embarrassment that follows when one responds to a knock on door with college kid phrase of "Grease your belly and slide under." only to find that the one knocking was the "housemother."

Many Koehler Hall residents could be mentioned. In the corner room opposite from us were Ken Paulson and Lloyd Epley. Lloyd, as a pre-law student, wrote the first constitution for the ASWC (The Associated Students of Westmar College) that became the basis of the student government at Westmar until the college closing in 1997. Rueben Job, who later became a United Methodist Bishop and James Stein who became a Professor of Church History at Garret Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL were roommates in the basement of Koehler. We used to refer to them as the "Ruebenstein" Jews in the basement.

In the 1960's the two dorms were connected with an architectural design that provided additional rooms and a common lobby space. The Koehler name was



From: The 1964 Eagle yearbook

dropped (some say because Mr. Koehler did not provide the anticipated dorm construction funding) and the entire complex became known as Memorial Hall.

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Your memories of Memorial Hall are welcome.

Next time we will discuss the various married student housing buildings, so gather your memories and send them to be included in the story.



Alumni News

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1961-John Vollmar and Lorelei (Klippstein) Vollmar (1968) are retired and living in Punta Gorda, Florida near son Alex and two grandsons.

1965-Dr. Lloyd C. Petersen was asked to join the board of the United Methodist Midwest Mission Distribution which is known for helping those in need all over the world. Although he is officially retired from Southwest Minnesota State University, he still supervises student teachers and teaches American history in SMSU's "Senior College," a college for those fifty and older.

1969-Dale F. Andres, D.O is the Interim Chief Medical Officer at Mercy Medical Center in Mason City, Iowa.

1991-Shannon (Schwartz) Simmons has published "Grandma Freedom," a stage play about coming of age in the end of the 1960's. All characters including Grandma

Freedom set on a journey to change their world, and fight the good fight against Viet Nam. It can be purchased at <http://www.lulu.com/content/5541042>.

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1993-Robin (Weede) Pask reports that she graduated from USD and then went on to St. Paul's School of Theology for two years. She and her husband lived in Arizona before moving to California where they live with their three active sons.

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(including obituaries) and email or send it to us for publication.

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1961-Ruth (Letsche) Rogness died on Nov. 15, 2007 at Westminster, Md.

1964-1974 Faculty-Lyman Francis Kells died on November 4, 2004 in Seattle, Washington.

1975-Thomas Trobaugh of Le Mars died Dec. 16, 2008 in Ogden, Utah.

1976-Linden Aileen (Anderson) Snyder of Algona passed away on Jan. 12, 2008.

Summer 2009 Reunion:1960s and Football

Registration Form — Please return by July 1, 2009

Name _____
First Last Class

Name _____
First (Maiden) Last Class

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____ (to receive monthly updates of who is attending)

Saturday Noon: Football lunch..... Number _____ @ \$10.00 each \$ _____

Saturday Evening: 60's and Football Banquet:Number _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

Or pay on-line at www.westmarcollege.org



Bellringer in the Night

From the May 10, 1962 edition of the *Gleam*. for the proper hour.

If you were awake at about 11:15 p.m. on Friday, May 4 (1962) and in the vicinity of Thoren Hall, you probably heard the old Thoren Hall bell ring. The thing that makes this ringing (among other ringings) unique, was the completeness of planning and the precision with which the sounding of the bell was executed.

My partner and I began making plans two weeks ahead of time. We used some old stories and ideas to develop a perfect and infallible crime.

About a week before the night of ringing the bell, we borrowed an old pipe from the maintenance department stockpile and purchased about 250 feet of stove pipe wire costing 75¢. One evening, we crawled out of a practice room window of Thoren and climbed up into the belfry from the roof. We wired in the bell clapper and then ran a short piece of stove pipe wire from the clapper to the window of a practice room. The basic work was complete.

On the evening of May 4, 1962, (when according to our 1962 Almanac there would be no moon) we began the final step in our program. We went up to the practice room and extended the wire so that it touched the ground.

The next step had involved a great deal of debate. That was the position we would be at for the ringing. We considered the gym roof, the heating plant roof, Dub's roof or various trees. After an experience with the birds, we dismissed the tree idea and decided upon Dubs. We then dropped a wire from the roof of Dubs and then waited

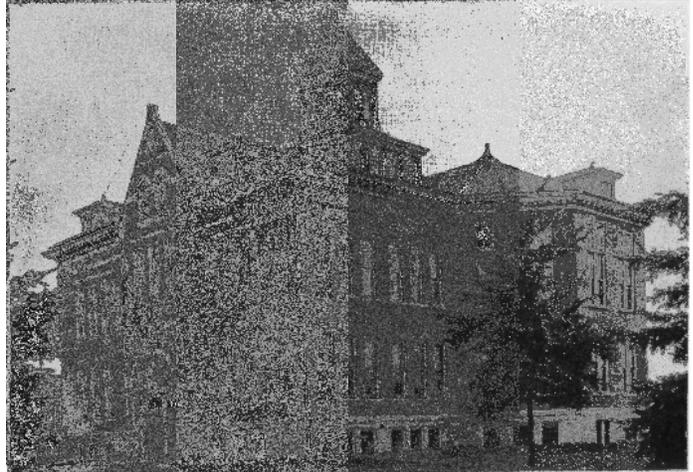
(Note: Our campus deputy, Mr. Paul Bailey, has been doing a commendable job and the purpose of this confession is not to discredit his position or work.) After seeing MR. Bailey drive by in the school car, we set to work. We connected the wire that was dropped

from the roof of Thoren to the wire dropped from the roof of Dubs, tightened the wire that was connected to the clapper, and began ringing.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bailey was parked in front of Koth House. When he heard the bell, Mr. Bailey came barreling up the back drive while Loren Reed popped out of the heating plant to watch the fire escape. Bailey moved into Thoren with the confidence of Eliot Ness. At this time we broke the wire by giving it an extra tug. Judging from the amount of wire we pulled up, the break was fairly close to the bell.

The next scene was the most enjoyable to us. We watched lights flash on and off in Thoren while Mr. Bailey searched every noon and cranny. He went up in the belfry and on to the roof. Mr. Bailey flashed his light around the gables and radioed negative reports to the ground.

A half hour later the Le Mars police moved into action and continued the fruitless search. It was quite humorous



Thoren Hall from the 1914 Pilot Yearbook

to hear them say, "I don't know how they could have gotten away." After an hour and a half of investigation, Mr. Bailey, the heating plant fellows, and the police went home and we came down the fire escape of Dubs, shook hands, and departed.

New Development on the Case

It appears a guilty conscience had taken its toll on one of the bell ringers and on July 1, 2007 in Sioux Falls, S.D., a confession was made.

Ray Krippner confessed that he and Neil Hindman were the 1962 Thoren bellringers.

Case Closed

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.



Westmar Endowment Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of the Westmar College Endowment Board of Trustees, the Westmar Scholarship Program was permanently endowed, and the Westmar Friends and Alumni Association and the Westmar Student Association have added funds to the endowment. Scholarships will be awarded annually to those students who are currently residents of Le Mars and/or alumni, former staff and former faculty of Westmar as well as their children and grandchildren, regardless of location. Then consideration will be given to residents of Plymouth County and other applicants from northwest Iowa. This program will sustain a sense of Westmar's ongoing presence in the educational life of the state of Iowa.

Iowa College Foundation (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 Le Mars, 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 2009, 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.

The application is now available on the ICF website and the deadline is April 3, 2009.

From: www.iowacollegefoundation.org

Westmar "Class of '59" 50-Year Reunion (including 1957-1961) Registration Form—Please return by August 1, 2009

Name _____
First Last Class

Name _____
First (Maiden) Last Class

Address _____

City, State, zip _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____ (to receive monthly updates on who is attending)

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

Saturday lunch: Le Mars Convention Center Number _____ @ \$10.00 each \$ _____

Saturday banquet: Le Mars Convention Center Number _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Sunday morning Coffee: Le Mars Conv. Center Number _____ No charge

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

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



Alumni Office Staff

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker '67: 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@WestmarCollege.org

<http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>

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/>. 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 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: **WAFAs@WestmarCollege.org**



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 \$ _____

General donation to help sustain your
Alumni Association \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Return this form to:

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



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



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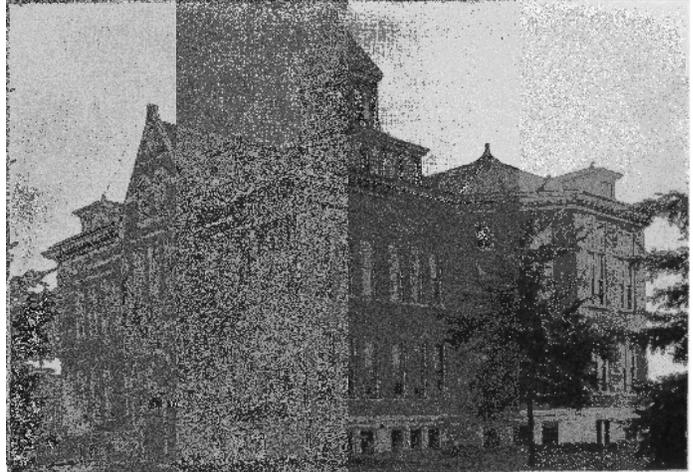
(Note: Our campus deputy, Mr. Paul Bailey, has been doing a commendable job and the purpose of this confession is not to discredit his position or work.) After seeing MR. Bailey drive by in the school car, we set to work. We connected the wire that was dropped

from the roof of Thoren to the wire dropped from the roof of Dubs, tightened the wire that was connected to the clapper, and began ringing.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bailey was parked in front of Koth House. When he heard the bell, Mr. Bailey came barreling up the back drive while Loren Reed popped out of the heating plant to watch the fire escape. Bailey moved into Thoren with the confidence of Eliot Ness. At this time we broke the wire by giving it an extra tug. Judging from the amount of wire we pulled up, the break was fairly close to the bell.

The next scene was the most enjoyable to us. We watched lights flash on and off in Thoren while Mr. Bailey searched every noon and cranny. He went up in the belfry and on to the roof. Mr. Bailey flashed his light around the gables and radioed negative reports to the ground.

A half hour later the Le Mars police moved into action and continued the fruitless search. It was quite humorous



Thoren Hall from the 1914 Pilot Yearbook

to hear them say, "I don't know how they could have gotten away." After an hour and a half of investigation, Mr. Bailey, the heating plant fellows, and the police went home and we came down the fire escape of Dubs, shook hands, and departed.

New Development on the Case

It appears a guilty conscience had taken its toll on one of the bell ringers and on July 1, 2007 in Sioux Falls, S.D., a confession was made.

Ray Krippner confessed that he and Neil Hindman were the 1962 Thoren bellringers.

Case Closed

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.



Westmar Endowment Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of the Westmar College Endowment Board of Trustees, the Westmar Scholarship Program was permanently endowed, and the Westmar Friends and Alumni Association and the Westmar Student Association have added funds to the endowment. Scholarships will be awarded annually to those students who are currently residents of Le Mars and/or alumni, former staff and former faculty of Westmar as well as their children and grandchildren, regardless of location. Then consideration will be given to residents of Plymouth County and other applicants from northwest Iowa. This program will sustain a sense of Westmar's ongoing presence in the educational life of the state of Iowa.

Iowa College Foundation (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 Le Mars, 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 2009, 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.

The application is now available on the ICF website and the deadline is April 3, 2009.

From: www.iowacollegefoundation.org

Westmar "Class of '59" 50-Year Reunion (including 1957-1961) Registration Form—Please return by August 1, 2009

Name _____
First Last Class

Name _____
First (Maiden) Last Class

Address _____

City, State, zip _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____ (to receive monthly updates on who is attending)

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

Saturday lunch: Le Mars Convention Center Number _____ @ \$10.00 each \$ _____

Saturday banquet: Le Mars Convention Center Number _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Sunday morning Coffee: Le Mars Conv. Center Number _____ No charge

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

Or pay on-line at www.westmarcollege.org

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



Alumni Office Staff

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker '67: 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@WestmarCollege.org

<http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>

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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 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 _____

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News (attach a separate sheet if needed) _____

Return to: WAFAs
335 First Ave. S.W.
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

Or e-mail to: **WAFAs@WestmarCollege.org**



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 \$ _____

General donation to help sustain your
Alumni Association \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Return this form to:

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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.