



# Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

August 2012

**Kansas—Westmar Reunion held May 26, 2012 in Topeka, KS**

## REUNIONS



Front Row L to R: Lowell Wendland '46, Faith Wendland, Iola (Hegle) Schroeder '41, Frances (King) Wood '53, Avalyn (Dillingham) Reissig '62. Back Row L to R: Nita Merriweather (sister of Marge Kehrberg), Chuck Kehrberg '58, Marge (Cleveland) Kehrberg '58, Ken Grenz '69, Jeanette (Schroeder) Grenz '70, Jerry Johnson '66, Sharon (Wagenblast) Karns '69, Dee Ann Mezger '69, Calvin Hartman '51, Leon Hayen '53.

### June reunion of Westmar Wrestlers and Coach Milt Martin

Some of the Wrestlers that attended a reunion with Coach Milt Martin in June—more photos on page three.



More photos of the reunions are/will be posted on the our facebook page @ facebook.com Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association—please LIKE us.



### Decade of the 90's

Some of the alumni attending the decade of the '90s reunion Aug. 4, 2012 gather around the eagle for a group shot!

From left: Joe Meno, Stephanie Hall Meno, Alison Grad Jones, Lisa Whitehead, Roy McKenzie, Erv Whitehead, Rosemary Radloff, Hisako Furuhata, Randy Oldfield, Bob Nichols, Dee Christenson, Chris Radloff, Lisa Langlitz, and Amy Christenson Fowler. (more photos on page 5.)

# Bricks and Mortar and More

Bricks and Mortar and More –

## Life Sports Center

by Wayne G. Marty

The theme chosen by Paul Odell, editor of the 1984 Westmar Yearbook, was "Building for a Better Tomorrow." He introduces the yearbook with "The campus this year has been busy with construction. We have the construction of the Le Mars community swimming pool on the south 40, the construction of a Life-Sports center and Industrial Arts complex adjacent to the Gymnasium, and the renovation of Thoren Hall. With these improvements our campus is on the way to an optimistic future."

The Gleam of November 20, 1991 reported that the bleachers have been installed in the Life Sports Center and the building can now be considered to be complete. But for this building the major story is "Bricks and Mortar" because "The road of construction of the Lifesports Center was a bumpy one." A dated chronology may help us follow the "bumpy road."

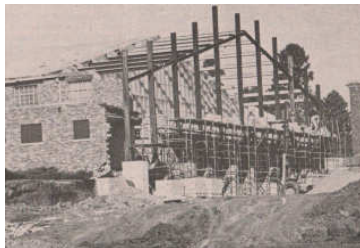
**November 1982** - The project began when the Board of Trustees approved a plan for the expansion of the Westmar Sports Complex.

**September 22, 1983** -The Ground Breaking Ceremony was held with plans to complete Phase I, the ground floor of the Lifesports Center, including locker rooms, a wrestling room, weight rooms, a classroom and some space for Industrial Arts.

**October 3, 1983** -The first major "bump in the road" occurred on a Monday morning when the west wall of the 1941 gym collapsed while excavating for construction of the new Lifesports addition. Classes were in session in the gymnasium when the collapse occurred.



**September 5, 1984** - Good progress on the rebuilding of the west wall and construction of Phase I with the hope that the lower level will be usable by the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Director of Maintenance, Freddie Goodchild, says, "I'd like to see the basketball team in there by next fall." (1985-86 year) This was a good basketball year with Hutchinson, Prescott, Hiemgartner, Starkweather, & others.



Renovated lower floor of Thoren Hall opens for use by the music department.

**November 7, 1984** - At the fall Board of Trustees Meeting, Serious financial concerns triggered a motion to "close the college". The motion failed by a vote of 13 to 4.

**May 9, 1985** - A National Financial Campaign is initiated to acquire funds sufficient for completion of the Lifesports Center by Fall of 1986.

**October 17, 1985** -A Gleam Editorial describes a sad personified Thoren Hall as it feels its renovation on hold while the focus seems to be on completion of the Lifesports Center. Actions often reveal priorities.



**October 14, 1986** - Lower Level football locker room, weight room and wrestling room in use. Industrial Arts and Women's Locker room to be ready by Spring 1987. Upper level completion target date is January 1988.

**November 25, 1987** - Decision to finish racquetball court and thus complete phase I by January 1988.

**October 17, 1990** - Funding from gifts and financing is sufficient (\$732,000) to complete Lifesports Center. Announcement that Thoren Hall will be demolished.

**November 11, 1990** - Thoren Hall demolished on a Sunday morning.

**November 14, 1990** - Christmas Festival of Trees was held in the unfinished Lifesports Center.

**November 27, 1990** - Construction begins again with goal to complete the Lifesports Center in time for Commencement of May 1991.



**May 11, 1991** - Commencement ceremonies in Lifesports Center but equipment installation is not complete.

**November 20, 1991** - **LIFESPORTS CENTER COMPLETE!** New bleachers are installed. Inaugural Ceremony was the annual basketball alumni game. The Total cost was stated as \$2,265,000.

"The road of construction of the Lifesports Center was a bumpy one." It was an eight year process and during the 1990 year Westmar College became Teikyo Westmar Uni-

Please check the "Missing" list on our website under Links, and let us know if you can help us "find" somebody.

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





**Bricks and Mortar cont. from page 2**

versity. Many students were recruited and enrolled expecting completion of the building during their years at Westmar. For many, it did not happen. The six years of use until the college closed in November of 1997 continued to be turbulent years. Enrollment increased during the 1991 to 1993 years because of the presence of the Japanese students but then dropped significantly. It always seemed difficult to feel the fan support enthusiasm in the new Lifesports Center. Even a cheering crowd of the same size seemed smaller in the new larger space.

But, thankfully, the use of this new building did not cease with the closing of the college in 1997. It quickly became the facility for the combined programs of the YMCA and the Le Mars Recreational services. One half of the bleachers have been sold so more floor space in the gym is available for the many activities for all ages. In the basement the locker rooms remain as dressing and shower facilities; the Industrial Arts space is now a Weight Room and Flex Room and with the risers removed the Classroom has become the Cardiovascular Room.

So the Teikyo Westmar University Lifesports Center is now owned by the city and is clearly labeled as the LeMars Wellness Center with a steady flow of human traffic of all ages from early in the morning to well into the evening with a particularly heavy presence of kids for weekend activities. Perhaps the Bumpy Road has led to a smooth path to healthy living for the citizens of Le Mars.



By Dr. Wayne Marty

**Westmar Alumni and Friends Association  
Board of Directors**

Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff (Pres.)  
Cory Isebrand '88  
Jan Wagner '76  
Phyllis Mitchell '90  
Dennis Smith '71  
Linda Smith '71  
Bonnie Lassen '71  
Stuart Fischer '84

Next Board meetings are:  
October 15, 2012  
at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

**Alumni News**

**Westmar Wrestlers Reunite with Coach Milt Martin**



The wrestling reunion was held in conjunction with Ice Cream Days in LeMars. The reunion started with getting the float ready for the parade on Saturday morning. It was a great success and had many people reminiscing along the parade route.

Westy was there to ride shotgun!

Later the alumni and their families got together at the park for grilling and good times together.



Coach Milt Martin and some of the cheerleaders.



## Alumni Deaths

'34,'35—attn'd Western Union—**Lyndall "Lynn" Bowers**, LeMars, 96, died July 5, 2012. Lynn moved to Los Angeles in 1936 and served as a fireman, engineer and company commander retiring in '61. He returned to LeMars and to his family business in real estate and insurance. Survived by his wife of nearly 75 yrs. And two sons, one of which is David '68. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'38—Western Union—**Rev. Duane R. Voas**, 95, of Burnsville, MN, died June 8, 2012. Among survivors are son Larry Voas '62 and his wife Sarah Jane (Strong) '61). [www.whitefuneralhomes.com](http://www.whitefuneralhomes.com)

'42 attn'd Western Union —**Kenneth Orville Brown**, 90, Le Mars, died June 11, 2012. He was a farmer in the Adaville area. He is survived by his wife of 68 yrs, Eva (Gabel) '38, and 2 of his sons, and 2 of his daughter-in-laws, and his sister Cleone Brown '51, attended Westmar. [www.lemarsdailysentinel.com](http://www.lemarsdailysentinel.com)

'49—**Harm Lubben**, 90, Sioux Falls, SD, died June 27, 2012. He served in WWII in the Pacific Theatre before attending Westmar and later worked for the City of Sioux Falls until his retirement. He was very interested in children and one of the founders of the Juvenile Detention Center in Sioux Falls. [www.heritagefuneralhome.com](http://www.heritagefuneralhome.com)

'49—**Willis Floyd Goettel**, 86, Pueblo, CO, died May 27, 2012. He was a veteran of WWII and a minister in the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches for 45 years. Willis, his wife Winnie (Shonts) and five of their children are Westmar graduates. [www.imperialfuneralhome.com](http://www.imperialfuneralhome.com)

'50—**Shirley (Hubers) Bunch**, 82, of Sioux Falls, SD, formerly Rock Valley, IA, died June 3, 2012. She taught country school. Active in the community she served on the Rock Valley School Board. [www.porterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.porterfuneralhomes.com)

53—**Marvin J. Lindsay**, 85, of Cherokee, IA, died May 5, 2012. He attended Westmar and graduated from ISU with a degree in agronomy. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the Army. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'65—**Lester King**, 68, of rural Spring Valley, MN, died Nov. 16, 2011. He was a Westmar Hall of Fame football player, #33. He taught and coached until signing and playing with the Denver Broncos and then signing and playing with the Omaha Mustangs. He was a dairy farmer most of his life. His wife Jessie (Staiger) attn'd '64-'66. [www.griffen-grayfuneralhomeinstewartville.com](http://www.griffen-grayfuneralhomeinstewartville.com)

'65—**Joan M. (Ohlendorf) Daniels**, 70, of Remsen, died May 4, 2012. She attended Westmar before moving to Sioux City and Kansas City. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'67—**Kenneth "Ken" R. Beeck**, 67, of Grand Forks, ND, died May 22, 2012. He was born in LeMars and attended Westmar, received a BBA from U of IA, MSW at S Cal. He was US Air Force Retired Colonel and retired financial advisor. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'70 Attn'd—**Ralph E. "Bucky" Goodman**, 69, of Pine Point, MN, died July 5, 2012. He was born in Pine Point and then grew up in TN. He ran cross-country at Westmar and was drafted into the Army in '68. He later returned to MN and had many interests. [www.daviddonehower.com](http://www.daviddonehower.com)

'73—**Margaret Evelyn (Waite) Traurig**, 87, of Village of Lake Orion, Mich., died June 9, 2012. She was a Red Cross volunteer during WWII. She worked for the Social Security Administration for over 25 years. Margaret had 10 children, 6 of whom pre-deceased her. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'75—**Joliene Carol (Dise) Kirby**, 59, of Mt. Pleasant, IA, died July 22, 2012. After receiving her degree in sociology she began her career in social work which continued until her retirement in 2011. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'76—**M. Jean (Monahan) Lowder**, 85, formerly of Sioux City and currently of Des Moines, died July 27, 2012. She had a professional career in nursing and was a lifelong member of the American Nurses Association. [www.sioux-cityjournal.com](http://www.sioux-cityjournal.com)

'88—**Gregory F. "Greg" Sanow**, 53, of Owasso, OK, and a LeMars native died May 9, 2012. He was a bank investment executive and a reverse-mortgage loan officer of late. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)



**IMPORTANT: Ask yourself and your relatives that attended Westmar or one of the colleges associated with Westmar if it is time to clean out the bookshelf and the storage space by donating year books and other memorabilia to Wafa. We are missing copies of '29, '42, '45, '58 '59, '60, '61, '65, and '75. A number of these have been requested. Your donations will be appreciated by many and your children will not have to deal with them later.**

**Thank you for considering Westmar (Wafa) in your future plans.**

*Contact us!*

**Wafa@WestmarCollege.org** (make sure our e-mail address is on your "friends" list)  
<http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>  
**712-546-8759**

**New Wafa Facebook Page** from the Wafa office with news and announcements to keep you in touch, and up to date. Please join us at [facebook.com/WestmarUniversityAlumniandFriendsAssociation](http://facebook.com/WestmarUniversityAlumniandFriendsAssociation)—please "LIKE" us.





# Alumni News...continued

**Thank You!** To those of you who send Obituaries and Alumni News we are very grateful. We only see the obits that are in the local newspapers and many don't contain much information about the person. Even maiden names are not always included. Your fellow Alumni want to know and are interested in what classmate are doing—that promotion, new employment, family news, or a great vacation. Let us hear from you. [wafa@westmarcollege.org](mailto:wafa@westmarcollege.org)

'67—**Dixie (Dahl) Kooiker** and husband Calvin celebrated their 45th anniversary June 4, 2012. They were married in Kiester, MN. They celebrated in March with a memorable three-week road trip to San Diego, CA. They live near the Westmar campus and help with the care of the Westmar park and gazebo areas. (From the LeMars Daily Sentinel with permission.)



'89—**Michelle Wendt (Linn) Cockburn** was married to Curtis Cockburn on June 9, 2012 in Warsaw, Mo. She lives in Elliott, IA.



Reunions are made possible in part, by your Wafa membership—we thank you for your support.



## Now Available T-shirts in GREY.

(also in white or blue) Great for summer and the reunions. Prices are: Small, Medium, Large and X-large are \$15.00 each and XXL & XXXL are \$18.00 each. (Note: not all sizes may be available in all colors.)



Westmar Items make great gifts! Check the website for more gift ideas. [www.westmarcollege.org](http://www.westmarcollege.org) More music CD 's have been added as well.



Westmar t-shirts come in white, grey or blue.

WESTMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION  
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LE MARS, IOWA 51031



**Alumni Office Staff**

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Still receiving your newsletter by mail? Get it on line and get it in color—make the print as large as you like. Get it where ever you get your e-mail. Better and more convenient. Make sure we have your e-mail address today.

Be sure to check out our 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 and encourage them to be a WAFA member.

**Like us on Facebook !**

***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!

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

Other relatives also alums \_\_\_\_\_

News (attach a separate sheet if needed ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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