



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

November 2014

Thank you so much.....

As we come to the end of 2014, we at the office of Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association, would like to thank our members and friends for the many ways in which you support WAFA.

We started a new program of accepting donations in Honor of special Westmar Alumni and Staff, including anyone you would like to honor and for any reason. It could be in honor of a new grandchild or a marriage or a graduation—perhaps someone that received a Westmar scholarship.

In this same book we have a section In Memory which doesn't have to be a Westmar Alumni either. We include photos and biography information about the person for whom a donation has been made. Donor names are listed on each page.

These donations and the persons honored are listed each year in the February issue along with all the donations we have received through the year. We are very grateful for this support and for our members.

We would also like to thank all of you who send updated information, articles, obituaries and bits of information. It is what makes the newsletter interesting and informative and we certainly appreciate.

Thank you again!

Reunions

Plans are already underway for the 2015 reunions to be held in LeMars. We have some committee volunteers but more are welcome. Planning is done online with Janice in the office to help with connections in LeMars.

50th Anniversary of 1965 with classes of '63 thru '67 invited. August 28th & 29th

60th Anniversary of 1955 and 55th Anniversary of 1960 with classes of '53 to '62 invited. September 18th & 19th.

Decade of the 70's is being planned but the date has not been set.



Don't forget to visit the website (www.WestmarCollege.org) for your 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.

Great place for Christmas shopping!! Lots of memorabilia including CD's of your favorite Choral and Quartet music.

Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year are sent to you from your WAFA Staff.

Pictured is the tree the staff decorated for the Pioneer Christmas Village held each year at the Plymouth County Fairgrounds in December. This years tree was decorated 'In recognition of the men and women of Westmar who entered the Education Profession. The chain notes the number, by state, of living Westmar alumni or faculty who are/were administrators or teachers.' The photos in the red school house shapes are some of Westmar faculty in the education department.



100 YEARS AGO—#4

By Wayne Marty

Actually, 101 years ago, in 1913, a small college in Oregon closed and it may illustrate the lack of power in the word “United”. In 1865, just a few years after Oregon became a state in 1859, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ established Philomath College just 6 miles southwest of Corvallis. Philomath literally means “love of learning” and a small town by the same name grew up around this new school with restrictions established by the city founders to protect the students by prohibiting gambling, saloons, and theaters.



However by 1869, a division was becoming apparent in the annual conference sessions of the church that resulted from a disagreement over a significant social issue

of that era. The rift was the result of the “liberals” wanting to abolish the rule against membership in secret societies. The intensity of the rift overpowered the desire to remain “united” and the radicals split from the local congregation, abandoned their support of Philomath College, and, in 1889, started their own “College of Philomath” just a few blocks away.

The College of Philomath operated from 1889 to 1913 so for 24 years, except for a closed period from 1906 to 1909, two United Brethren colleges



operated side by side in Philomath, Oregon. During the Great Depression, hard times fell on Philomath College as well and in 1929 it closed and, at least to some degree, became a part of the growing United Brethren York College in York, Nebraska.

Les Hazen, a York graduate of 1952 and current resident of Oregon, recently asked if there were any Philomath College historical artifacts in the Westmar Archival collection. He was interested because his parents attended Philomath College and the original building was rescued from a state of disrepair in the 1970s, placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1980 opened as the Benton County Historical Museum.



With some significant grant support and under the outstanding leadership of Millie (Steiber) Mandernach W '67, the Westmar Archives were put in good order following the Westmar closing in 1997. There are various items from the many and varied colleges of the United Brethren church that found a home in the Westmar Archival collection following the York- Westmar merger of 1954, but I was not able to find anything about Philomath College or the College of Philomath.

The United Brethren church loyalty and a respect for Higher Education also came into a conversation 10 years ago in 2004 when we (my wife, June, and I) were fortunate, because of a family connection, to attend a Reunion of the Thornton Family at Camp on the Boulder in Montana. I recently conversed with Max Thornton (attended York College for one year and is now age 90) to review my memories of that conversation of 10 years ago. Max tells that his grandfather, a Montana farmer, thought that it was so important for his “boys” to get a good education, that he moved the entire family to Oregon so that they could attend Philomath College. Max’s father, Roy, was captain of the Philomath basketball team in about 1906 and several others of the tall Thorntons were on the team. The “Love of Learning” continued with several of the Thornton family attending York and several also attending Westmar in the 1940s and 1950s. Philomath is an interesting and treasured piece of our Westmar heritage.

Marty

Check out the Website for lots of memorabilia!! Other than shirts and glasses you can find Choral CD’s and other items. You can place your order at the website or contact us at the office. www.westmarcollege.org or call 712-546-8759 and leave message.



ALUMNI NEWS



1970 Eagles Football Senior Reunion

left to right: the guys around the Eagle on campus

Tim Sanderson, Lenny Dunham, Bill Kusters, Dan Vicker, Mike Schmillen, Rod Nelson, Vic Jagodzinske, Denny Smith, and Steve Jester.

front row, left to right: Rod Nelson, Tim Sanderson, Mike Schmillen, Dennis Smith. back row, left to right:

Steve Jester, Vic Jagodzinske, Bill Kusters, Dan Vicker, Lenny Dunham



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left to right

front row: Mike and Gloria Schmillen, Linda and Dennis Smith back row: Steve and Donna Jester, Lenny and Chris Dunham, Rod and Carole Nelson, Bill and Joan Kusters, Tim and Jacque Sanderson, Vic and Buck Jagodzinske, Dan and Lori Vicker

the 1970 Eagle's Football Seniors. We have met the last 4 years in late September. The first two gatherings were hosted by Dan and Lori Vicker at their home in the Iowa Great Lakes, the 3rd get-together was in Hot Springs, So. Dak. at Vic and Buck Jagodzinske's home, and this last meeting took place in Le Mars at Dennis and Linda Smith's. We were entertained with tours of downtown Le Mars, Westmar campus with Dr. Wayne Marty, and the Plymouth County museum's Westmar Room. Nine players from a total of 12 attended this most recent gathering.

Everyone enjoyed the weekend together and are making plans on attending the 2015 Reunion. We would like to thank Janice Kooiker, Dr. Wayne Marty, and Krista Nilles for their cooperation and participation with this year's reunion activities.



Alumni Deaths

'43 (Western Union) – **William “Bill” Edward Schultdt**, 92, of Park Rapids and Nevis, MN, died Aug. 4, 2014. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the US Army Air Corp. He completed 40 missions as a front nose gunner in a bomber in the Pacific Theatre. He and his wife farmed until '58 and then moved to MN and owned and operated the Camp Liberty Resort on 8th Crow Wing Lake for 18 years. For over 50 years he produced thousands of custom fishing jigs for use at the resort and retail market. www.ceasefuneralhome.com

'50 (Western Union) – **Darrell DeBoom**, '86, Primghar, IA, died Sept. 12, 2014. He served in the US Army from '46 to '48, with 13 months spent across seas in Korea. He was an educator across the state until he retired in June of '94. He was active in the United Church of Primghar and was a member of the Gideon's for over 20 years. He was active in the community serving on the Primghar Library Board for 18 years and the Primghar Planning and Zoning. www.gaudian-eldridgefuneralhomes.com

'51 (Western Union) – **Glada Reichert Koerselman**, 84, LeMars, IA, died Sept. 22, 2014. Glada was an award winning editor, columnist and editorial writer, having worked for LeMars Daily Sentinel and Sioux City Journal. She was active in St. George's Episcopal Church and served as an Episcopal Church lay preacher. Glada was a founding member of the Plymouth County Historical Museum Board of Directors and named to the Museum's Hall of Fame in '99. She purchased the 1905 and 1952 sections of Old Central School in LeMars for \$1 in '95 and raised money to begin salvage of the two buildings before presenting them as a gift to the Plymouth County Historical Museum. She was honored with the LeMars High School Alumni of the Year award in 2014 and in 2013 was instrumental in saving the 4th of July celebration in LeMars. Among survivors, are sisters **Marilyn Broocks '50** and **Lloys Jeanne Brown '44**. www.mauerjohnsonfh.com

'52 – **Gerald Francis Probst**, 84, LeMars, IA, died Aug 15, 2014. He served during the Korean War and earned an Honorable Discharge having attained the rank of Corporal. Gerald farmed west of LeMars and was active in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and was a member of Wasmer Post #241 of the American Legion. www.mauerjohnsonfh.com

'52 York College and Staff (Chaplin) '60-'66 – **Harold Wendell French**, 84, of Columbia, SC, died July 10, 2014. He began full-time teaching at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in North Carolina and taught at the University of South Carolina and the Department of Religious Studies since '72. He retired as Dept. chair in '95 but continued teaching part-time. He received numerous recognitions for the U of SC and SC Honors College including the distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. He authored 4 books and edited 5 others. He edited the 11 volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism. His book Zen and the Art of Anything, was published in three editions and

listed as one of the fifty best spiritual books of the year in 2001. He lectured and conducted seminars across the county and in England, traveling to many parts of the world for research and service projects. www.obits.dignitymemorial.com

'57 – **John “Dick” Bird**, 83, Emmetsburg, IA, died Sept. 30, 2014. After serving his country in Korea, Dick began his career as a professional educator, teaching in 1957 and continuing through his retirement from the consolidated Sutherland district in 1989. Over the years he taught multiple business courses, coached JH girls basketball, drove a bus route, held the position of athletic director and served the district as HS principal. In addition to officiating both football and basketball, he spent years working in the crop insurance industry as both a salesman and loss adjuster. He was Calumet's city clerk for decades and after he retired from teaching, he enjoyed serving O'Brien Co. as Magistrate. In '88 he was inducted to the Iowa HS Athletic Assoc. Athletic Director's Hall of Fame. He and his wife had nine children. <http://greenwoodfuneral.com>

'62 – **Lorraine N. Nugent McDermott**, 86, Kingsley, IA, died Oct. 18, 2014. She taught in Plymouth Co. rural schools for six years and Kindergarten in the Kingsley-Pierson School for 37 years. She retired in '91 but substitute taught and tutored at school for several years. Lorraine was also very active in St Michael's church activities and children's activities. www.rohdefh.com

'65 – **John Colby Huckelberry**, 71, Mesa, AZ, died Sept. 22, 2014. While at Westmar, John participated on basketball, cross country and track teams. His first teaching and coaching work was in Colfax, IA, as an Industrial Arts teacher and girls basketball coach. He later taught Industrial Arts, Drivers Ed and coached numerous sports at Brooklyn, Albert City-Truesdale and Dallas Center-Grimes school districts in Iowa. He and his wife **Janice (Sprick '65)** moved to Arizona and the last 17 years he taught Math and Industrial Tech. at Poston JH in Mesa, AZ, before retiring in '04. Golf, working with wood, hunting, working on classic cars and antique furniture, were his interests. He is also survived by his brother **David '63**. www.stormlakepilottribune.com

'69 – **Ralph “Rod” Johnson**, 67, of Merville, IA, died Oct. 14, 2014. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, being discharged as a Sergeant. He worked for the IRA out of the Des Moines office for 5 years and then the Sioux City office as a collection manager from '80 until his retirement in Jan. '07. He was a member of the DAV Marine Corps League, VFW Post #1973 in Sioux City and a Past State Commander of the VFW; life member of the American Legion, the NRA, and was a Green Bay Packer shareholder. www.boothbyfuneral.com

'72 – **Nancy Ann Singer Rensink**, 67, Hinton, IA, died Aug 3, 2014. Nancy worked with Chevron Corporation in



Alumni Deaths— cont.

Mississippi, was active in the First Presbyterian Church and served as a deacon. She also served as a Cub Scout leader. She returned to the LeMars area to help care for her parents. She worked as an accountant with Terra Chemicals in Sioux City and then Farmers Coop. in Hinton. www.mauerjohnsonfh.com

'72—**Leola Jurens Bleeker**, 81, Sheldon, IA, died Sept 21, 2014. She began her teaching career in a country school near George IA, and then taught at the Elementary School in George until her retirement in '96. Students will remember "We should give each other warm fuzzys and not old pricklies." Among her interests were music, reading and traveling, with the highlight being a trip to Europe with her husband Lee.

www.jurrensfuneralhome.com

'74 – **Craig LeRoy Boetger**, 62, of Omaha, NE, died Sept 2, 2014. Craig was a well known florist in the LeMars area and Omaha. As a Nebraska Master Florist and active member of the Nebr. Assoc. of Floral Designers, he won first place in the Nebr. Florist Society's Premiere Competition and went on to compete in the Sylvia Design Competition in California. He was active in church, civic groups and theatre. www.siouxcityjournal.com

IN MEMORY/IN HONOR

Making a donation as a memorial in someone's name that is deceased will place that person's information in a special section of our MEMORY book, on a stand, in the Westmar Room. The page will also include the donor's name. Donations may also be made in HONOR of someone living that is special to you with Westmar ties and a page will also be entered for that person in that section of the book.

This book is also on display at reunions.

Many pages have been added this year and pages will be listed in the February newsletter each year together with the names of the donors for that year.

A nice way to honor Westmar Alumni, friends, or family.

Wafa Dues Support These Activities:

- Work with the Iowa College Foundation to administer the Westmar Endowment Scholarship
- Help sponsor and organize Westmar reunions
- Publish Wafa newsletters
- Help maintain displays in the Westmar Room of the Plymouth County Historical Museum
- Maintain Westmar Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Administration database
- Help maintain the Westmar Memorial Park on the former campus
- Maintain the Wafa web-site www.westmarcollege.org

Alumni News

'73 - **Ross A. Mastbergen**, Paulina, IA, writes that he is a self-employed farmer and USPS employee.

'65 – **Mike McKenzie**, of Lummi Island, WA, writes that in semi-retirement he serves as part-time writer, editor, and consultant for the following clients: Managing Editor, Business Pulse Magazine, Bellingham, Washington (covering Watcom Co.); Director of Communications, Whatcom Business Alliance (225-member organization he helped establish in '12); Media Relations, The Willows Inn on Lummi Island; Marketing and Communications, Anderson Paper & Packaging Inc. and Chocolate Necessities Inc.; Event Manager, Lummi Island Reefnet Salmon Festival; Chair, Watcom County Ferry Advisory Committee and Charter Board/co founder, Lummi Island for Education. Past activities; Chair, Preserve Lummi Island Community; Events Mgr, Friends of Island Library; Board of Lummi Island Boys & Girls Club and Volunteer teacher, Island Elementary School (Exciting Writing for Kids).

Mike and wife Laura (Bostrom) of 21 years, moved to Lummi Island in the San Juans, northwest of Seattle, in 2008, after he retired as an assistant athletic director at Texas A&M University. That five year position followed his career in journalism that spanned six newspapers (starting in Ames, IA, immediately out of Westmar in Feb. '65), radio in Kansas City, author or co-author of 6 books, and 15 years as a contract reporter with Sports Illustrated while live in KC, Dallas, and Denver.

'88—**June Mikkelson** has moved to Vermillion, SD, and is currently employed as the elementary school counselor at Jolley Elementary. She is also an adjunct instructor at WIT & USD. Her daughter Melissa, now in high school, is an active Tanager.

'69—**Martha (Moerer) Carolus** retired after 22 1/2 years, from Bellevue Public Schools as a teacher's aide. **Duane (Carolus '69)**, continues to work at Professional Research Consultants.

'70—**Deborah Eddy** of Chicago retired in October of 2014 from IBM Corporation after 41 years.

'96—football coach **Tom Menage** (now deceased) has a son **Pete Menage** who is playing football for Central Lyon/George Little Rock HS and coach **Toby Lorenzen '86**. He made headlines in Sept. for racking up 356 yards total offense (250 passing, 106 rushing) and completed passes to seven different receivers in a 49-14 win over West Lyon, the Lions' first win in the series since 2011.

Westmar Blue Polo Shirts—\$25

Port Authority—65%Poly/35% cotton. Available online and at the Wafa office are perfect to wear to reunions or other travels. People will notice!



Alumni News—ABOUT

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Board of Directors

The next Wafa quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 19, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room.

All Wafa members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

Current Board Members:

January 2014 to January 2016 term

Cory Isebrand '88 (current President), and Jeff Kelly '87 and Amy Allen Kelly '85 as one seat.

Note: June Mikkelson will be moving and Stuart Fischer has agreed to another term.

New Members—January 2015 to 2017:

Barbara Wernli Collins '73

Jeff Neary '81

Steve Wick '78

Craig Hoffman '88

Rosemary Radloff '93 and staff '86-'97

The new members year book photos and bios will be in the February issue of the newsletter.

We thank them for being available to serve on the board and look forward to working with them.

Bruce Buller—Remembers

A CHURCH STORY

It was World Communion Sunday, first Sunday in October 1953. There were more than 400 in worship. Two Asian young women were baptized. It was a very good Sunday morning.

On Monday morning, an engineer came to look at Hildreth Memorial Church to plan for some repairs. After looking at the roof beams above the folding doors at the back of the sanctuary, he pronounced the church unsafe. The stringers were on the last two inches of the angle of their cutting.

Pastor Clawson went to the Board of Missions which was meeting and I was asked to move the Sunday School to Thoren Hall on the campus of Westmar College. Persons came with pick up trucks and trailers; I remember that the 4 - 6 grade went to the fourth floor. I explained to teachers that if they came early they would be ready for the young persons who would be open to study and share because they had just climbed the four flights of stairs. Every teacher wanted to move, but no one did - I must have done that which was possible.

I was invited to preach on a Sunday in the chapel which we used for worship on Sunday morning. I remember the text was from Nehemiah: vision to build, the people had a mind to build, every one worked at their home place and the wall was built. When I finished the sermon and shared a benediction, the seventy voice choir filled the space with music as they sang the Amen. I am still blessed in remembering.

I remember having Youth Fellowship for church youth in the Upper Room in Dubs Hall, it was not easy but it was valuable. I needed help to get young women out of the women's rest room. We shared good conversations and found picnics to be helpful. The separation between town and gown was very real for young teen agers.

But the relationship with church and college was also very special. I remember Pastor Clawson telling the story like this. When other pastors would talk about the number of persons who came to Sunday morning worship, Pastor Clawson would quietly say "We have more than 200 persons in Wednesday evening prayer service.

I remember a Monday morning early after the move to the college, A layman, a farmer, the father of one of the young persons in the Youth Fellowship, came into the office which was above the old science building. "Pastor, I went to the bank this morning and said to my banker, 'we need some money for a building fund.'" The banker replied, "We will use the papers for the front quarter of the farm, that's the security you use for feed and seed." So the farmer signed the loan papers and came with the check. Pastor Clawson looked at it and said with surprise "\$5,000 dollars!!" I learned a lesson in faithful stewardship.

One more story about Hildreth Church. In the fall of 1951, I joined the choir at the old church. We warmed up in the basement. On the south side of the basement, a shelf was filled with hats and ear rings and I wondered why this kind of practice was there. I found out that there was a very large stained glass window in the sanctuary on the south side and the glitter of ear rings made it necessary to remove them so others would not be distracted in the worship hour.

I have more stories, and they bless me, but some of them had better stay in memory. I give thanks for the way my life was blessed in Calvary Church as we gathered again and again in LeMars, Iowa.

Thank you for sharing, Bruce.

Jackets—



Blue jacket—100% polyester with grey lining. also 100% poly. Machine washable. Sport-Tek by Port Authority. \$40 plus postage.

Fleece jackets by Port Authority in Women's or Men's sizes. Machine wash in Royal Blue or Grey—\$40 plus



Alumni News

2014 Class Reunions

Westmar Classes of 1954 & 1959



Faculty and Staff '67—F. Milt Martin '53, Myrleen Thompson Divelbiss '53, Darline Miller Balm Demmel '54, Virginia Frank McQuistion '59



B. Jim Divelbiss '55, Dwight Vogel '59, Linda Vogel Wayne Marty '53, June Asplund Marty '53, Robert Embree York

53,54,55—F. Darline Miller Balm Demmel '54, Myrleen Thompson Divelbiss '53, Jean Morton Stone '54.

B. Bill Arnold '55, Bruce Buller '55, Wayne Marty '53, June Asplund Marty '53, Jim Divelbiss '55.

Not pictured: Clayton Hodgson '55, Ardella Miller Hodgson '55, Keith Megill York '54.



57,58,60,61— F. Beth Liebing Johnson '57, Shirley Walkup Arnold '58, Wanda Powell Schneider '60, Beverly Boutelle Van Devender '60.

B. Viola Grass Megill '59, Gay Feind Weber '61, Fred Shickell '58, Jan Reece Hutchison '60, Norma Kammann Schmidt '60, Stan Schmidt '60, Ramona Kolbo Oehlerking '61.



59—F. June Machmer Erdmann, Virginia Frank McQuistion, Carla Lopez Brewster, Charlyn Frahm Shickell, Sylvia Feiock Frahm, Mari-lynn Kammlade Forsberg.

Mid. Roger Erdmann, Byron Bowsher, Dwight Vogel, Patricia King Marshall, Jeanette Claude Best, Joyce Fridley Duncklee, Bill Wood.

B. Larry Grauberger, Ed Baack, LeRoy Munsch, Marshall Martin, Harold Biederman

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JoAnn (Skinner) Schleis '64 + staff:
Communications Director and Newsletter Editor
Mary Holub: Financial Director

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Most newsletters are now sent by email to reduce office costs of printing and postage. We send to a few who do not have email or who have a special request. Get it on line and get it in color—make the print as large as you like. Get it where ever you get your email whether at home or on vacation. It's the best way!!

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 **only one** reminder 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.

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

e-mail to: WAFA@WestmarCollege.org

Or complete form online at:

www.westmarcollege.org/membership.html



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