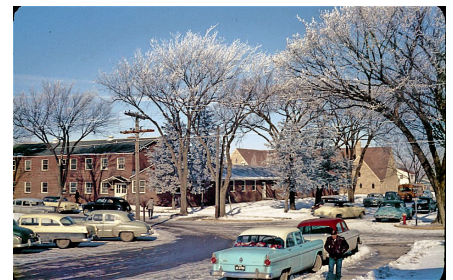




Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

Volume 13, Issue 1

February 2011



Westmar Campus — February 1955 — by Leland Eyres

Reunion Dates

July 15-17: 80's Decade

Sept 17-17: 50-Year reunion of the Class of 1961

2012 - 90's Decade plans being made.

See our website for more information and registration.

Notes from the Office:

Reunion invitations have gone out and people are already responding. If you have questions or need more information the contact information for this office is on the back page.

Looking for someone? Maybe we can help. We may have current information and can put you in touch. We also have information in our files on achievements and obituaries plus information from year books and issues of the Gleam.

Ghost Stories

We understand there were *ghosts* at Westmar and we want to hear about them!!! We like to do a story about them this fall. Let us know what *YOU* know.

WAF@WestmarCollege.org

WAF Board of Directors Meet..

The board met on January 18, 2011 at the Plymouth County Museum.

New board members were welcomed (pictures on page 3) with special thanks to those retiring from the board.

Milton Martin '53 & faculty '63-'97

Leon Scott '66-'97 faculty

Paul Coffin '75 who served as board president.

New board president is Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff.

Special projects include identifying oldest living alumnus. Being a part of Festival of Trees at Pioneer Village at the Fair Grounds. Involving board members as part of committees in the activities of WAF such as Westmar Park, Archives/Display, assistance at reunions and scholarship selection.

All alumni are most welcome to be a part of committees and we would welcome participation and ideas.

Scholarship Applications Due Soon

http://www.iowacollegefoundation.org/students_westmar_end_app.html – postmark by April 1, 2011

<http://www.iuof.org/westmar.html> – postmark by March 15, 2011



Perfect for your summer fun and class reunions, Both white and blue T-shirts are in stock. See website.. S—XL are \$15.00 XXL are \$18.00

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association Board of Directors

Rosemary Radloff '93 (Pres.)	Board meetings for the rest of 2011 will be held on April 11, July 11, and Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.
Cory Isebrand '88	
Jan Wagner '76	
Phyllis Mitchell '90	
Dennis Smith '71	
Linda Smith '71	
Bonnie Lassen '71	
Stuart Fischer '84	

Inside this issue:

<i>Bricks & Mortar & More</i>	2
<i>Alumni News & Deaths</i>	3
<i>"Poling House" Theory</i>	5
<i>Alumni Deaths Continued</i>	5
<i>Contact Information</i>	6



Bricks and Mortar and More

Weidler Hall By Dr. Wayne Marty

In March of 1958 two major Westmar campus activities were about to be moved from the basements of buildings on opposite sides of the campus to the new Weidler Hall, named after two prominent United Brethren churchmen, Bishop V. O. Weidler and former York College President Dr. D. E. Weidler. The Board of Trustees had set the maximum cost at \$300,000 for the fully equipped new building. The students had been eating “family style” in the basement of Wernli Hall since the 1920’s and the Student Union, located in the basement of the original 1908 gymnasium, was the site for casual social connections since the construction of the “new” gym in 1941. With a growing student population, Weidler Hall would now provide space for cafeteria style eating on the lower level and space for student services offices, recreational activities, general relaxing, and snack bar on the upper level.

The building was designed with a sub basement hoping that funds would some day be available to install a bowling alley in this new Student Union. But instead of bowling, in 1963, Milt Martin, the newly appointed Westmar wrestling coach, took over the space and brought the Westmar wrestling program out of the depths of Weidler Hall to the heights of national prominence. Milt tells of his daily safety warnings to the team. Out of bounds space was limited so rolling a teammate opponent into the cement wall was a constant danger. And each time Westmar hosted a home meet in the gym, the dedicated wrestlers would roll up the mats and carry them up the long stairway and over to the gym to be reassembled for the meet. This space was home for the wrestlers until the late 80’s when a well equipped wrestling training area was provided in the new Life Sports Center. East of the Weidler wrestling room was an additional smaller room that some (probably in the 70’s) will remember as a popular “Coffee House,” discussion, and informal performance space.

As designed and when newly opened, the main lower level of Weidler was the new cafeteria. The campus community was aware that the switch from family style dining to a cafeteria style would be accompanied by other social changes. Chuck Kehrberg, (W 1958) writes in the April 18, 1958 Gleam, “There is no question in anyone’s mind that the new Student Union and Dining Hall is terrific compared to what we used to have. The light, airy, come and go conditions of the cafeteria make for wonderful dining conditions. Also the snack bar with its fresh newness and wide choice of variety far outshines the old dingy hole. Thanks to the many who helped make this building possible.”

“In connection with the new building, I think there are a

few items which we should look out for. One is that we eat with whom ever we please. We seem to get in a rut and eat with the same people all the time. The one good thing about Wernli was that we had to eat with different people every so often. This was valuable to all of us and a little carry over into the new cafeteria of this spirit would be good.” Kehrberg also gave high praise to Bill Geiger for his student involvement in the planning for the move into this new Student Union.”



Weidler Hall

This dining hall served the campus for only 11 years but I have a personal vivid 1963 memory of coming to the dining hall after teaching my near noon math class in Dubs and learning of the assassination of President Kennedy. When dining was moved to the new Commons in the spring of 1969, a major remodel and rearrangement moved the recreational, lounge and snack bar space to the lower level. The campus bookstore moved into the previous “Private Dining Room” and students using the east entry on their way to the bookstore and break time at the snack bar were greeted by the friendly switchboard operators at the bottom of the stairway. . Some will also recall the Gleam and Yearbook offices in the back hallways and the student mail boxes at the west entry.

The upper level of Weidler was the original location for ping-pong, pool, lounge and snack bar but following the renovation the various student services offices were finally brought together from scattered campus locations – Dean of Students, Admissions, Financial Aid, Job Placement, Chaplain, and others.

It would be nice to list names of the many who worked in the Weidler building but the list would be very lengthy – the many Deans of Students, the many Directors of Admissions, Financial Aid, Job Placement, etc. and their secretaries and receptionists and student helpers. The list would also include the Snack Bar “cooks”, Bookstore employees, Switchboard operators, building custodians, & others. You the reader can make your own recollections of those working in the building during your era. I hope most of your

Alumni News

York College – Happenings

1952 (United Seminary 1956) (Westmar Chaplin '64-'68) Hal French, Columbia, SC, continues to teach one course per term at the University of South Carolina. His book, "Zen and the Art of Anything," was published in a third edition in July of '09.

Westmar Happenings

1960 - Virginia Huppe is enjoying living back in her hometown of Berthoud, CO. She is volunteering with two local museums and is an elder in her church where she attended as a small girl. She is taking harp lessons and plays solos for church and helps with the music. She enjoyed her 50th Westmar reunion in August of 2010. Daughter Amy works in Longmont, 12 miles away.

1962 – Howard Bredesen is retired clergy from Minnesota United Methodist Church.

1967 (and United Seminary) Tom Eberle, Chehalis, WA, is completing his 40th year in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UMC and intends to retire in 2011. In addition to servicing parishes, he has organized new congregations and served as district superintendent.

1970 – Frank C. Carew has been teaching at the University of Maiduguri for the past 33 years. He attained full Professorial rank in 1990 and expanded

the post-graduate program in Counseling Psychology. He recently attended an International conference in Botswana, Southern Africa. Has a new grandchild and thinking to retire on fish farming... any ideas?

1971 – Pamela Kahl Mobley is currently teaching third grade in Rogers, Arkansas and has been teaching for 38 years.

1981 – David Hoff (Kendalyn Powell – attended '80 –'81) They have 6 children: William b. 1981; Kathryn b. 1982; Mary b. 1990; Kenneth b. 1991; Lauren b. 2001 and Jessica b. 2002. David is currently Activities Director at Nodaway Valley in Greenfield, IA (his hometown). This is his thirtieth year in education and he is currently the IHSADA (AD Association) President for 2010-11.

1985-86 atnd – Tim Eiler just (1/31/11) joined RBA Consulting in Minneapolis as a consultant in project, program and portfolio management.

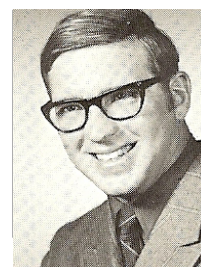
1992 – Amy Christenson Fowler is teaching high school math at Washington High School in Cherokee, IA. She has two children: a daughter in 11th grade and a son in 9th grade.

1993 – Michelle Wendt Linn is teaching 5th grade in Red Oak, IA. She has three children: Abby 14, Jake 12 and Connor 9.

New Board of Directors



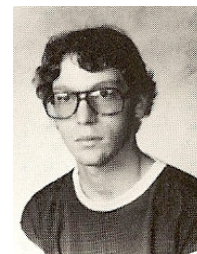
Bonnie Larson Lassen '71



Dennis Smith '71



Linda Kehrberg Smith '71



Stuart Fischer '84

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

Alumni Deaths

1950 – Kenneth E. Paulsen passed away December 14, 2010 in Dysart, IA. He was a teacher and athletic director in several Iowa schools.

1951 – Patricia Bump McIntosh age 79, passed away Nov. 3, 2010 in Zearing, IA. Pat taught school in Colo, Collins and West Marshall for over 30 years. She was then the first Director of the Colo Community Pre School, a role she filled for 25 years.

1954 – Maxine Louise Butler Archie passed away Jul 28, 2010 in Linden, MI. She taught schools in Iowa, Colorado and Minnesota, retiring from Fenton Community Schools.



Alumni Deaths Continued —

(Continued from page 3)

1954 – Virginia Lea Gourley passed away August 13, 2010 in Clarinda, IA. She taught schools in Iowa and Missouri during which time she received a masters degree in computer education.

1956/57 - George W. Frerichs passed away Aug 11, 2010 in LeMars, IA. George started a career with Wells Dairy as a milk man and worked for them for many years before switching to become a Prudential Insurance Agent. He served in the Navy and was a member of the American Legion. Brother Leon Frerichs '59.

1958 – Constance H. Burruss Senseman – passed away May 19, 2009 as a result of an automobile accident in Santana, Ks. Her husband Lyle Senseman '60 died in 2008.

1959 – Joann Eichhorn Bowsher passed away December 17, 2010 in Denver, CO. She was a member of Evanston United Methodist Church. The Eich-

horn family was a pioneer family in Lehr, ND. JoAnn was born in Bismarck, ND and later moved to Denver. Joann and Marlys (Ruff) Nickisch '60 were lifelong friends. Her husband Byron Bowsher class of '60

1964 – William Michael (Mike) Biery passed away Nov. 28, 2010. He was a resident of Colorado (65-'95) and Oregon City, OR (95-'08) and then returned to Castle Rock, CO. He was a Human Resources Executive for numerous companies including Gates Rubber Co., Samsonite, Celestial Seasonings, Coors, Colorado Women's College and Information Handling Systems. In Oregon he was regional Director of HR for the American Red Cross. He retired from Benchmade Knife Company in 2008. Wife Linda (Osborne) Biery '65.

1969 – Marilyn Eberhart passed away January 7, 2011 in Aberdeen, SD. She spent 3 years in the Peace Corps in Jamaica and taught at Dupree, SD, White Lake, SD, Didsbury, Canada and served

in Malang, Java, Indonesia as a seminary professor.

1969 – Steven Ray Schmillen received degrees in Physical Education and Science in 1969. He was a well respected coach in both football and track from 1969 – 1978. After nine years of teaching he became an insurance agent/manager in Elkhorn, NE. He was also a member of Masons and an EMT while in Dunlap. Brother Mikel Schmillen '71.

1979-80 – Douglas Anderson of Correctionville, IA passed away Jan 26, 2011 in Kansas City, MO. He had worked for several construction companies and had a passion for the outdoors, particularly hunting and fishing.

STAFF/FACULTY:

Kathy Knudtson, faculty '60-71 and '73-75, (wife of Coach Paul Knudtson who was a teacher and coach at Westmar for 18 years '57– 75) passed away Dec. 17,

Weidler Hall cont....

memories will be good ones but we know that in a student services building there are “downers” - Admissions denied, job application rejection notices, disciplinary meetings with the Dean of Students and even the self inflicted gunshot death in the upper level Men's Restroom of Dean of Students, Cornelius Patterson, on January 5, 1984.

After Westmar closed in 1997, the City of LeMars struggled to dispose of or find appropriate uses for the campus buildings. Weidler was chosen to be one of the buildings that would remain city owned. A \$862,000 renovation project in 2002 replaced all of the windows, updated the electrical supply, rearranged the interior and added a 4 stop elevator to the northeast corner of the building. The building, still referred to as Weidler, is a central location for many LeMars social services. The entire upper level is occupied by the Plains Area Mental Health services and the lower level is active with a Head Start Program serving 76 children from age 18 months to 5 years, Outreach and Crisis services for families, women and children, child and maternity care, a Community Center for Persons with Disabilities, and other

service programs. So this building continues in the “Service” business it has since its beginning in 1958.

Wayne G. Marty



Above: the Eagles Nest snack bar



Left: Student Lounge



Weidler Hall Cafeteria and Student Union

Photos are on postcards and were taken 1957-58. Available for purchase. (\$1.00)



Alumni Deaths Continued—

2010 in Cedar Rapids. She was active in TTT, Linn County Family and Consumer Science, First Lutheran Church, volunteered at Mercy Medical Center, and was a member of Kappa Omicron Nu. Her husband Paul passed away in June 2009.

Gary D. Kreykes, 74 of Ames, IA formerly of LeMars, died Oct. 20, 2010. Gary attended Westmar College along with Northwestern Junior College and Colorado State College, finishing with a master's degree in physical education. He coached at several colleges ending his career at Westmar and retiring to Okoboji in 2001. While in LeMars he served on the Parks Board and was active in church and other activities.

The York Corner: Obituaries

1931 – Wilhelmina Feemster Jashemski was a noted scholar of the ancient site of Pompeii where her archaeological investigations focused on the evidence of gardens and horticulture in the ancient city. (Dec. 24, 2007)

1938 – Dr. Herbert E. Speece passed away in North Carolina two weeks shy of his 96th birthday on October 14, 2010. Dr. Speece began teaching at NCSU in 1947 and retired in 1980. He served as the department head of Math and Science Education. He and his wife established the Herbert and Ruth Speece scholarship fund in math education

1944 - Robert W. Merritt 88 of Carroll, IA passed away Sept. 20, 2010. He formed Merritt Construction Company and was involved in many construction efforts including working with a crew on a major movie studio, "suburbs" in Carroll and designed as well as built many commercial building as well as installing science labs and gymnasium structures. He loved music and as a young man was a drummer for Bob Figg and His Rhythm Kings.

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

"Poling House" naming Theory - by Wayne Marty

In the December 2009 Wafa Newsletter (I think), I wrote about the President's Homes. The Sixth paragraph in that story was:

"At some time the house came to be known as the Poling House and all news stories relating to the moving of the house in 1966 use that name. I have no explanation for the origin of that name for the house. Wafa will be pleased to get any ideas or information from Alumni regarding the name and in a future Wafa Newsletter theories and ideas will be synthesized for a "Best we Know" report. "

So here is the "Best we Know" report.

In the December 2009 Wafa Newsletter "Bricks and Mortar and More" about the President's Homes, we "fished" for theories about the "Poling House" name for the first President's Home in all the publicity when the home was moved from the campus in 1966. Wafa has received no further information so here is a "Marty Theory" but a bit farfetched.

Westmar and the Evangelical church have had some association with the Poling name since the early 1900's. Rev. Charles C. Poling was Acting President of Western Union College from 1906 to 1908 and resigned because of ill health. Rev. Daniel A. Poling was an Evangelical minister but in 1936 was rebaptized as a Baptist minister and went on to

become a prolific writer and the editor of "The Christian Herald" magazine for several decades. Daniel Poling's son Clark V. Poling was a Reformed Church of American minister and one of the four military chaplains serving on the Dorchester troop ship that was torpedoed and sunk in the North Atlantic waters on February 3, 1943 during WWII. It is reported that the four chaplains (Reformed, Methodist, Catholic, and Jewish) removed their life jackets and handed them to other soldiers. Survivors tell of seeing the four linked arm in arm and sinking with the ship. Over 600 others perished in that tragedy.

Congress authorized a special medal of honor named "The Four Chaplain's Medal" and on January 18, 1961 it was presented posthumously to the next of kin and February 3 was designated as Four Chaplain's Day. The First Westmar President's Home was moved from the campus to make room for the construction of the new Kime Science Hall about 5 years following the awards ceremony. Is it possible that the prominent Poling name surfaced for use because of these loose but most interesting connections to Westmar College? Marty

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



Alumni Office Staff

Janice (Dunbar) Kooiker '67: Executive Director
 JoAnn (Skinner) Schleis '64 + staff:
 Communications Director and Newsletter Editor

Show your Westmar spirit!

Do you know classmates or other Westmar alums who are not yet Wafa members? Ask them to send information and yearly dues to the office in Le Mars to be included in future mailings.

Contact us!

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

Return Service Requested

To continue receiving the quarterly newsletter, please complete the membership form below.

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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 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: 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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Can we e-mail your newsletter? Yes No

Attended Westmar _____ to _____ Class of _____

Membership fee: Single \$15.00 \$ _____

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General donation to help sustain your Alumni Association \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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