



# Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1

February 2012

**Thank You...for being a member of WAFA!** Your paid memberships and donations are the only current means we have to remain operational and has been since the college closed in '97. No Westmar funding was provided for an alumni association. Westmar funds were provided for a scholarship endowment through the Iowa College Foundation and the Iowa United Methodist Foundation.

MEMBERSHIPS help provide:

- Rent for WAFA office space in the Museum
- Telephone and Internet
- Part-time office staff (16 hrs. per week)
- Maintaining Data Base of Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students of York College, Western Union College, Westmar College, Teikyo Westmar University, and Westmar University
- Maintaining WAFA membership information
- Assist those wanting to reconnect with other Westmar people
- Assist in researching archived items and information
- Reunion support and mailings as requested for all Westmar related reunions, local and across the nation.
- Scholarship selection support to Iowa College Foundation and Iowa United Methodist Foundation
- Maintenance of WAFA Web Page
- Participation in Westmar related social networking groups
- Promoting WAFA through community events
- Availability of sales of Westmar memorabilia including having media transferred to CD's for sale
- Processing donated Westmar memorabilia through the Museum archives and displaying when appropriate.
- Displays in the Westmar room of the Plymouth County Museum
- Compiling and publishing of quarterly newsletter

DONATIONS help fund

- Improvements and additions to Westmar Room displays
- Westmar Park/Gazebo plantings and maintenance

NEEDED—funds for

- Update of original (15+ years old) Westmar Data Base Software (Raisers Edge) to current version (Approx. \$15,000)
- Update of computer hardware/software and printer
- Starting a plan for the future to ensure maintenance of records and archives.



WAFA Executive Director Jan Kooiker and Communications Director JoAnn Schleis, decorated a Christmas Tree for Pioneer Village in LeMars for the Westmar Alumni Assoc. Music was the theme and featured photos of groups through the years.

2011 Actual Budget Summary:

<b>Income</b>	
Sales (memorabilia)	\$ 1,058
Donations	
W Room	\$ 605
W Park	\$ 1,343
Dues	<u>\$ 5,890</u>
Total Income	\$ 8,896
<b>Expenses</b>	
Copier Toner	\$ 1,561
Mem. Purchases	\$ 938
Misc.	\$ 24
Newsletter Postage	\$ 155
Office Supplies	\$ 154
Postage	\$ 553
PayPal Fees	\$ 97
Rent	\$ 120
Payroll	\$ 5,341
Taxes	\$ 889
Internet	\$ 550
Telephone	\$ 523
W Park	\$ 3,760
W Room	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Expenses	\$14,665
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$5769</b>

<b>(Recap:</b>	
Sales down	\$ 505
Donations down	\$ 265
Dues down	\$ 1,495
Total	-\$2,265

Expense of W park – adding two new benches and landscaping @ \$3,760)

Donations may be sent to WAFA at  
335 1st AVE SW  
LeMars, Iowa 51031

Gift a Membership—  
Form on back  
page

# Bricks and Mortar and More

## The Commons and Centennial Hall (The Gray Buildings)

By Wayne G. Marty

The 1960's were growth years for Westmar College. The 1959 Full-time enrollment of 509 doubled to 1091 Full-time students in 1968. It was a turbulent decade with the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, and the controversial Vietnam War. Until the merger that produced the United Methodist Church in 1968, Westmar College was the only Evangelical United Brethren church college west of the Mississippi river and EUB students were coming to Westmar from California, Montana, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and the nearby states of the Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and, of course, Iowa. The Westmar campus was very active with student protests and changes. The long standing No-smoking rules, that produced the quip, "Westmar students die from pneumonia as a result of their smoking in the cold on the street-side curb rather than from lung cancer," were studied, and changed to permit smoking in designated areas on campus.

It was also a busy "construction" decade. Bill Johnson (attended York College in the 1940's) was the lead architect for nine building projects on campus during the 1960's, including Bonebrake Hall, Kime Science Hall, Memorial Connection, Wernli Hall Remodel, Old Science Hall Remodel, Married Student Apartments, Library Addition, and the two gray buildings – The Commons and Centennial. The gray was the result of the economical and efficient construction process that used pre-stressed concrete. All of this construction was a response to the rapidly growing number of Westmar Students. Unfortunately, following 1968, there was a steady decline in the number of Westmar students with only 381 enrolled in 1995 (the last data that I could locate). There are probably many reasons but one might surely be that after the church merger, Westmar was now one of five United Methodist Colleges in Iowa alone and the geographical support base was dramatically changed. So the college was literally paying for "Bricks and Mortar", including the two gray buildings, with increasingly scarce funds.

The Commons, constructed at a cost of \$850,000, was opened in January 1969, and relieved the crowded eating space in Weidler. The original design provided for the students to assemble in the basement, climb the two central stairways to the cafeteria lines on the main floor, and then eat in the spacious dining room with windows opening to campus views. After several years this intended flow pattern was abandoned and the lines formed on the main floor. It was a common practice for many faculty members to join and mingle with students for the noon meal. This main dining space was also the site of memorable festive events such as Dr. Garrido's annual Copacabana. The small Zuehl, nicely decorated dining room, named in honor of Dr. Benjamin and Carrie Zuehl, was a common meeting room for small group meal meetings, regular Faculty Senate meetings, and College Board of Trustee Meetings. It was the location for many very major decisions including the merger with Teikyo University in Japan in 1990 and probably the final closing of the college in 1997. A larger space, The International Rooms, with provisions for separation into two rooms, were located on the east end of the main dining room and is remembered as the location where many prominent alumni were granted significant recognition and awards during the Alumni dinner at Homecoming time.

The lower level space was used for large group conventions and party space – Opening of the school year faculty parties, Founder's Day dinners, the Christmas Madrigal Boer's Head Banquet and finally a terminal "The End" sad celebration after the announced closing of the college. After Thoren Hall was demolished a portion of the Lower Commons space was fitted with sound-proof practice rooms and became the primary location for the Music Department.

The City of Le Mars has retained ownership of The Commons and it now serves as the Le Mars Convention center. Upper and Lower large meeting spaces are now available and heavily scheduled for Community dinners, wedding receptions, political rallies, city voting location, etc. Kitchen facilities have been removed and remodeling has provided Rest Rooms on the upper level. All food services are now catered from outside but the early college founders would be appalled by the presence of Bar facilities on both levels. Space for the lower level bar was made available by removing the original center stairways. Well's Blue Bunny leased some of the lower level small room space for their training center for a number of years and had the Vanilla and Chocolate training rooms. That space is now occupied by the Iowa State Extension Offices. The building continues to be very well used.



*Westmar  
Commons  
1969*



Cont. on page 3

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



Centennial Hall

Centennial Hall has a different end story. The four story Men's dormitory was constructed during the 1967-68 school year at a cost of \$700,000, and opened for occupancy in the fall of 1968 with space for 154 male students.

The Gleam of Oct. 1, 1968 reports, "Men on 4th keep physically fit by participating in a fly catching contest while waiting for the screens that were promised at the beginning of the year. Denny Dahmes is floor champ for the week with a total of 44." 150 guys over a period of nearly 30 years will each have their memories of incidents and pranks. David Hubert from the 1980's recalls the theft of Dennis Gallagher's clothes while he was in the shower and remembers Dennis returning to his room wrapped in a newspaper. Learning to adapt is part of the college experience.

New Dorm was the name of this building for the first year but it was named Centennial Dorm the following year – probably because 1969 was the Centennial year for the City of Le Mars. This building is still for sale by the City of Le Mars. After the college closed it was used on a few occasions to house groups of construction workers but has been empty for most of the years since 1997. The remaining Westmar Dorms have all been renovated for apartments but such a project is difficult for Centennial because the interior walls are of concrete block construction. The City had Centennial scheduled for demolition in 2011 after a final effort to sell the building. Although the continuing life of this Gray building is probably limited the memories in the minds of many college guys (and maybe even some gals) may be retained for many years.

Wayne G, Marty.



The Commons with Centennial Hall in the background.

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

Rosemary Radloff '93 & staff (Pres.)	Next Board meetings are:
Cory Isebrand '88	April 16, 2012
Jan Wagner '76	July 16, 2012
Phyllis Mitchell '90	October 15, 2012
Dennis Smith '71	at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth
Linda Smith '71	County Historical Museum's
Bonnie Lassen '71	Welcome Room. All mem-
Stuart Fischer '84	bers are encouraged to partici-
	partate in whatever way they can.

## Alumni News

### SAVE THE DATE....

**Westmar Wrestling Reunion—June 15, 16, 2012**  
During LeMars Ice Cream Days. Milt Martin and the reunion committee would like to invite everyone to this reunion. Plans are being made for lots of activities including building a float for the Ice Cream Days Parade!

**Decade of the 90's—August 4th, 2012**  
with the **Decade of the '80's** invited to attend.

**Class of '62—50th Reunion — August 24, 25, 2012**  
including the **Classes of '60—'64**

### Westmar Kansas Reunion

Saturday, May 26, 2012 from 9 am to 2 pm

Forest Park Conference and Retreat Center  
3158 SE 10th, Topeka, Kansas

For information contact: Dee Ann Mezger '69 at [damezger@sunflower.com](mailto:damezger@sunflower.com) or 785-843-8361 or Linda at [lstauffer@jumpgate.net](mailto:lstauffer@jumpgate.net)

### Scholarship Applications Due Soon—

If you have students attending Iowa colleges for 2012-2013 information can be found at the following:

[www.iowacollegefoundation.org](http://www.iowacollegefoundation.org) Click "For Students", then "Westmar Endowment Scholarship Application" by April 1, 2012

Iowa United Methodist Foundation Westmar Scholarship can be found at [www.iumf.org/westmar.html](http://www.iumf.org/westmar.html) —postmark by March 15, 2012

**'80—Lori Pillsbury Lynn** of Parkville, MD is a mother of 3, grandmother of 1, and has worked for the social security administration for almost 31 years. She spoke with an SSA recruiter while in her senior year at Westmar.

**'58—Marshall Martin and wife Patricia (King) '59**, were the main organizers for Occupy in Sammamish, WA on Nov. 19, 2011. Over 110 people participated in this event organized by Sammamish MoveOn.Org House Group. The teen in the video is their grandson, Ben, and the interviews were done by their son, Jordan. Patricia was the first one interviewed and Marshall is the "old guy in the Mariners jacket." Videos were collected from seniors and professionals, including veterans, retired teachers, factory workers, and other backgrounds. Statements were varied, heartfelt, compelling and give a clear voice of what people want. The video can be seen by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching for Occupy in Sammamish Washington.



## Alumni Deaths

'42—**Sylvia (Dahmes) Clayton**, 91, of Tucson, AZ died Nov. 12, 2011. She was a member of the WASP Class 43-5 and ferried planes in the US & Canada during WWII. She was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2010. [www.legacy.com/obituaries/tucson/obituary](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tucson/obituary)

'44—**Paul O. Pfaltzgraft** of Indianola, IA died Jan. 6, 2012. He was a minister in Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist Churches across Iowa for over 50 years. (Note from Wayne Marty: During WWII he was the only regular student on the Western Union Basketball team. The remainder of the team was made up of the "coming and going" Naval Cadets who were present on the campus for short term basic flying training on the Western Union Field (now the City Airport). The cadets filled Wernli Hall and the girls resided elsewhere during that wartime period.) Two children also attended Westmar – Phillip '71, and Nita '74.

'44—**Phyllis V. (Godbersen) Else**, 89, of Mapleton died Jan. 7, 2012. After receiving her teaching certificate she taught country schools for 5 years. She was involved in church and community groups. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'50—**Lowell A. Brockman**, 89, of Fairfield Bay, Ark., died Jan. 2, 2012. After serving in the Army he returned to college and graduated from Westmar. He played football and began a career in teaching, coaching and administration spending time on the faculty at Westmar. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

Att'd '57—**Joan M. (Smid) Hilbrands**, 77, of George, IA, died Jan 9, 2012. She was a teacher and active in church and the American Legion. [www.jurrensfuneralhome.com](http://www.jurrensfuneralhome.com)

'60—**Janet C. (Halverson) Buchholz**, age 73, of Newell, IA died Jan. 14, 2012. She received her teaching degree and taught in Independence IA for 12 yrs. [www.fratzkejensen.com](http://www.fratzkejensen.com)

'63—**Raymond Kintz** of Ft. Pierre, SD died on Oct. 18, 2011. He had been very active in community and government, having received his law degree in '65. He is survived by his wife Lorraine Krumbach '62 and 2 sons and their families. [www.feigumfh.com](http://www.feigumfh.com)

'64—**James Plantikow**, 83 of Paynesville, MN died at his home on Oct. 20, 2011. He was a chemical dependency counselor at the Willmar Regional Treatment Center until retirement. He served as a pilot during the Korean War. [www.paynesvillepress.com](http://www.paynesvillepress.com)

'66—**Harold David Reuter**, 72, East Moline, IL died Dec. 11, 2011. He served in the Navy before attending Westmar. He was originally from Hospers. He worked at IBM, Moline, as a system engineer. [www.vanhoe.com](http://www.vanhoe.com)

'68—**Esther F. (Winterfeld) Oloff**, 100, formerly of Craig, IA died Jan 29, 2012. While teaching country school she continued to take classes at Westmar to get her degree. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

'70—**Velma C. (Gronemeyer) Wiltgen**, 91, of LeMars, IA died Jan. 11, 2012. Velma attended classes at Westmar and worked at the LeMars Daily Sentinel and the court house in LeMars. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'70—**Thomas L. Mai**, 63 of Aberdeen, SD died Nov 25, 2011. He was raised near Remsen. He was employed by Wells Blue Bunny before moving to Aberdeen and working for Woolco and Shopko as sales manager of several stores. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

'78—**Steven J Rembe**, 57, of Sioux City, IA died Dec. 18, 2011. Steve played football at Westmar for 2 years. He had his own construction company in Sioux City. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

### Staff:

'77—'89—**Joseph (Joe) Bottiger** of Lakeland, FL died Oct. 25, 2011. He served in Development and later as Vice President/Treasurer. He is survived by his wife Beverly (Ukena) '80. Marysville Advocate-Nov. 17, 2011

'84-'91—**Dr. Doug LaPlante** of Dickinson, ND, died Feb. 10, 2012. He was a professor at Westmar and then moved to Dickinson State University where he was dean of the College of Education, Business, and Applied Sciences and was employed for 21 yrs. [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

### Friends:

**Rev. Eugene H. Hancock**, 89, of Independence, IA died Nov. 26, 2011. He was an accomplished pastor and gifted preacher who served the largest Methodist churches in Iowa. White Funeral Home

**Larry Wink**, 72 of LeMars, formerly of Kingsley, IA died Dec. 17, 2011. He had a 40 year career of teaching and coaching with 34 years in the Kingsley-Pierson school district. [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

Coming soon—A new Wafa Facebook page from the Wafa office with news and announcements to keep you in touch, and up to date. Please join us!

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.



### Alumni News...continued



'81—**Jeff Neary** was honored with the Silver Beaver award on Nov 5, 2011 by the Mid-America Council, Boy Scouts of America. It is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Neary serves as assistant scoutmaster with Troop 184, is the War Eagle District chairman and serves on the War Eagle District Board of Trustees. (Used with permission of the LeMars Daily Sentinel. Full story can be found @ [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com) under Near, Seng honored.)

**City may have a buyer for Westmar building**—Kime science hall. More information in this development at [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

#### 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**

'69-'70—**Tim Hamer** and his wife Mary have a lavender farm in the beautiful Loess Hills of Iowa near Missouri Valley. After a trip to the Northwest they bought a farm and began growing lavender. They welcome visitors and use the lavender for many products. They will be making their own lavender oil this summer. For more information visit [www.loesshillslavender.com](http://www.loesshillslavender.com) and for more information on this wonderful part of western Iowa visit [www.livingloess.com](http://www.livingloess.com).



#### Just added—T-shirts in GREY.

Great for summer and the reunions. Prices are: Small, Medium, Large and X-large are \$10.00 each and XXL & XXXL are \$13.00 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 or blue.**

## Ghost Stories

We understand there were *ghosts* at Westmar and we want to hear about them!!! Let us know what *YOU* know.  
[Wafa@WestmarCollege.org](mailto:Wafa@WestmarCollege.org)

'74—**Lori Steele-Hubin** tells of a ghost in Thoren. "I mostly remember the "creepies" that came from practicing in the Thoren practice rooms late at night. I can remember more than once when I thought I heard things and no one was there, but one night they actually stopped me from doing the late-night practices for a while.

I distinctly heard a door slam at the end of the hall (I was way at the far end for some stupid reason). I called down the hall a couple of times and listened for anyone trying to "sneak" out (hard with all the creaky floors) and heard nothing. Back to



practicing for a little more and door again and enough. Now, of go past all those and go down-silly checking room door as I was I going to do grabbed me, anyway?! I know I thundered down those flights of stairs and my heart pounded all the way back to Memorial. Still gives me chills thinking about it!"

practicing for a then heard the decided that was course, I had to doors to get out stairs. I felt so each practice went by it. What if a ghostie

**WESTMAR SUPER BAND**—LeMars reunion is all about jazz

(By Joanne Glamm Editor) A passion for playing with good musicians lives on through a reunion of the Westmar Super Band in LeMars.

Westmar, a LeMars university which closed in 1997, was the place where area band directors and other musicians rehearsed weekly in the 1980s as the original Westmar Super Band. Now 30 years later, there's a new combination of teachers and accomplished musicians who played together as the Westmar Super Band Revisited, but it's still all about playing jazz music.



#### Cliff McMurray, of

LeMars, was teaching at Westmar when the Westmar Super Band organized "We'd do about seven rehearsals and then we'd have a guest artist come in who was sponsored by Westmar and ...other people that were into jazz," Mc Murray said. (used with permission. For the rest of the story go to [www.lemarssentinel.com](http://www.lemarssentinel.com)

Ft. row L—Dr. James Schroeder, LeMars; Lynn & Pam Gross, Sioux City; and Casey Kingdon, Cherokee. Back row L— Ron Arndt, Hartley; Dave Black, Council Bluffs; Justin Kisor, Sioux City; Paul Niebuhr, LeMars

**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

**Inside this Issue:**

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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.

***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](mailto:Wafa@WestmarCollege.org)

Or complete form online at:  
[www.westmarcollege.org/membership.html](http://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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

General donation to help sustain your Alumni Association \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Please make check payable to Wafa*

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