



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

May 2013

Scholarships Award for 2013—2014

Westmar became a member of the Iowa College Foundation in 1952 and received funds from the Iowa College Foundation while a member. Following the closing of Westmar, in cooperation with the Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association, ICF received over \$700,000 from the Westmar Endowment, to establish an endowment for scholarships.

Since 2001, this program has been blessed to provide over \$477,500 in scholarships. This year we will be awarding \$37,000 to 34 recipients—students who will be attending an Iowa private college or institution.

This year two Presidential awards of \$5,000 each are awarded to incoming college freshman, with a minimum GPA of 3.0. They are: Shannon Vander Berg, Sioux Center, grandchild of Eldon Vander Berg '60 and Emily Vondrak, Sioux City, grandchild of Kenneth '52 and Margaret Hayden Bonthuis '53.

Those winning \$1,000 scholarships to any college grade level with a minimum GPA of 2.5 are: Jennifer Theisen, LeMars; Stephanie Begnoche, Remsen, grandchild of Harvey Begnoche '93-'97 staff; Christine Gallagher, Hornick, child of Dennis Gallagher '86; Kathryn Clausen, Hinton, child of Matthew Clausen '86; Gregory Probst, LeMars, grandchild of Gerald Probst '52; Kimberly DeBoer, Sioux Center, grandchild of John W. Vis '51; Jordan Sitzmann, LeMars, grandchild of Marlys Harr; Anne Bomgaars, Sheldon, grandchild of Dorothy Poppen Bomgaars '67; James Rylaarsdam, Sioux Center, grandchild of Dolores Rylaarsdam '62; Melissa Childress, Alford, child of Carol Jean Childress '80; Lindsey Vander Velde, Rock Valley, child of Todd Vander Velde '84; Emily Borger, Sioux Center, grandchild of Louise De Boer '47; Kayla Frey, Sergeant Bluffs, child of Michael Frey '87; Christopher Stevenson, Merrill, grandchild of Donald Stevenson '55; Cody Vander Berg, grandchild of Eldon Vander Berg '60; Channing Pick, Le Mars, child of Kaylyn Busch Pick '88; Micah Neary, Merrill, child of Jeffrey A. Neary '81; Jordan Ogren, Cherokee, child of Janet Dreyer



Graduates from the '53 yearbook—who are they?

Ogren '86; Connor Ogren, Cherokee, child of Janet Dreyer Ogren '86; Daniel Smith, Oyens, child of Steve & Shari Rolfes Smith, attn'd and staff; Brianna Fowler, Cherokee, child of Amy Christenson Fowler '92; Rulin Pederson, Sioux City, child of Vincent Pederson '96.

Receiving \$500 scholarships were: Jordan Augustine, Urbandale, child of Crystal Hentges '88; Jenna Kitchenmaster, Lake Andes, grandchild, Arvin Kitchenmaster '63; Anne Epley Birtwistle, Mason City, grandchild of Donna Heim Epley '52; Isaiah Korver, Little Falls, grandchild of Muryl Jay Korver '60; Hillary Haden, LeMars; Shelby Puhl, LeMars; Matthew Albert, LeMars; McKenzie Hartman, LeMars; Erin Baldwin, Des Moines, child of Dawn Reams Baldwin & Brian Baldwin '83; Miles Kirts, Colorado Springs, grandchild of Marilyn Merchen Birmingham '64.

Our congratulations to all of these students. Many more applications were received but many were without grade transcripts by the deadline and could not be considered.

First consideration is given to students who are current residents of NW Iowa and have a Westmar connection. Other considerations are residents of LeMars, and students living outside of the northwest Iowa area but having connections with the former Westmar College. These are also awarded on the basis of a student's academic merit, commitment to community service and leadership qualities. Scholarships are for one year only, but may be renewed. Applicants at any college grade level are eligible, but must plan to attend one of ICF's member colleges as a full-time student.



A Focus on Alumni

Bob Franklin – '63 and Westmar Professor

A Man of Extremes (but with all the space filled in between)!

By Wayne Marty

Extremism is usually not used as a complimentary word but sometimes the experiences and contributions of one man are so varied that extreme may be an appropriate description. Dr. Bob Franklin, taught classes at Westmar for 19 years within at least four departments -Chemistry , Physics, Math, and Industrial Arts, but this is just a small sample of his now 78 years of diversity and variable experiences.

Born on a farm near Salina, KS in 1935, Bob experienced the hardships of a small 80 acre, Kansas, unirrigated, dry-land wheat farm. After eight years of attendance at the nearby one room school, with no one else in his class most years, he entered Assaria High School with the fear that he would not be able to keep up with the city kids so he worked and studied hard. As the year progressed he learned that his academic success did not provide him with popularity but, in contrast, his success produced verbal scorn from others. It would probably be called bullying today. Obviously, his intentional drift toward more care-less academic work did not eliminate the intelligence that he had already demonstrated and at the end of his freshman year his parents were informed that if Bob would turn in one neglected assignment he could still earn the outstanding freshman boy award. Bob turned in the paper.

While maturing on the farm with tractors and machinery, mechanics became one of his passions as he learned the mechanical skills of repair and welding from his father. When Bob was a junior in high school his father learned one day that the local machine shop was looking for a welder and told the shop owner, "My kid can weld." Bob went to the shop, stated his interest in the job, demonstrated his welding skill and was hired. Bob's "gear head" interest has been continually balanced and with his academic learning skills and this balance (or sometimes conflict) would play a role as his life continued to unfold.

Bob graduated from High School in 1953 and enrolled at Kansas State University with plans to pursue Electrical Engineering but his weak math background and his continuing fascination with the machine shop and other typical diversions of an active teenager made academic concentration difficult. At age 19, he acquired a junked motorcycle that he and his friends returned to working order, bowling with friends became a regular activity, and he continued with part time work at the machine shop. After two years he left Kansas State with less than a stellar record and returned full time to the machine shop work.

He responded to the opportunity to become a full time Fireman for the city of Salina, Kansas. During the Fire-house "waiting time" the men maintained and repaired equipment which enabled Bob to continue with his machine shop skills. While he was a fireman, he also joined the U.S. Army Reserve and left the Fire Dept. for 6 months for intensive basic training.

Bob maintained his involvement with the United Brethren church and at an outdoor social event offered his coat to a shivering young lady named Joan. Some months later Bob's mother told of a nice young lady that was attending their church, not knowing that it was the same Joan. A dating relationship began. Joan had been attending the local Junior college and had plans to transfer to Westmar College for her final two years. She convinced Bob to do likewise so both came to Westmar as juniors in the fall of 1960. They were married in June 1961 after their first year at Westmar and within five months thereafter Bob was activated from his reserve Army status to active duty for 9 months.

Joan graduated from Westmar in 1962 and then taught Elementary School in Cleghorn, IA, while Bob finished his senior college year and graduated Magna Cum laude in 1963. His academic enthusiasm was reignited under the encouragement of chemistry professor, Dr. Rebstock and others and it led to Bob's decision to continue with graduate School at Michigan State University. In 1967, after four years at Michigan State, and his PhD. Degree in Biochemistry, Bob, Joan and their new daughter, Sonya (now a mother herself and a PhD. biochemist for Monsanto in St. Louis), returned to Le Mars where Bob became one of the three PhD. Professors of Chemistry. During these academic years his "gear head" activities were largely put on hold but I can clearly remember that one of his college presentations for the required Natural Science Seminar was related to the valve action of certain motorcycle engines and Keith Schlender (W'61) and Michigan State class mate recalls that Bob was described as a "Jack of all Trades and MASTER OF ALL".

With the intense graduate study focus behind him, Bob now had more flexibility to practice the diversity that was always part of Bob's nature. He was now well prepared to help fill the various diverse roles as adjustments were needed in a small, financially limited, liberal arts college and he still found opportunities to practice and express his machinist interests. With a grant from the United Methodist Church in the summer of 1978, he employed several Westmar students to help build a wind driven refrigeration system that had the potential for use to preserve valuable foods and medications in developing countries without electricity. His Biochemistry degree was acquired with only one formal course in Biology but that does not mean that he had no knowledge or interest in



A Focus on Alumni— continued from page 2

Biology. He was the leader in honoring the long-time Westmar Biology professor, Dr. Danner, pushing for the establishment of the Danner arboretum on campus with the many labeled trees and shrubs. Bob could provide the scientific names for many trees on campus – the box-elder is Acer negundo; the burr oak is Quercus macrocarpa; etc. Bob was a regular and willing mechanical helper for neighbors and friends. If a part for an auto or motorcycle restoration project was needed Bob would say, “If you can’t find it we will make it. It was made for the first time by someone at some time.” His desire to learn extended to his determination to acquire his pilot’s license and his goal was achieved in 1973.

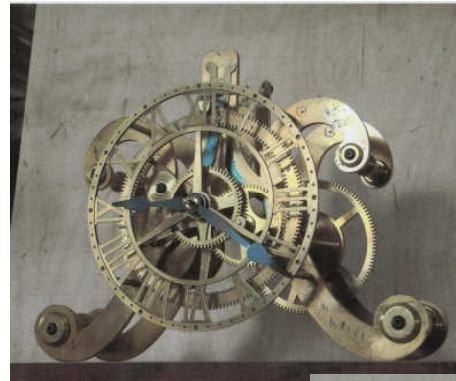
In 1969 Bob was the lead contractor for the building of their own home in Le Mars and in 1971 the Franklin home gained their second daughter, Marcia, (now with Masters Degrees in Astronomy and Library Science and a mother of twins). Someone described Bob as one who could turn a vacuum cleaner into a lawn mower. He did, in fact build a 4-wheel drive, articulated steering lawn mower for the acreage of their new home. Bob is a big man and can handle big machinery but can also do delicate work and has manufactured wedding rings and other small items. He left Westmar in 1986 during a period of Westmar financial challenges and began working for Chemical Sanitation Services. Working with this company that provided services and chemicals for commercial dishwashers and other industrial janitorial needs, Bob served well as a mechanic and chemist. In 1989, after a change in management at CSS, Bob left the company and trained as a Financial Advisor for IDS-American Express.



In 1995 Bob and Joan sold their house in Le Mars and moved to the small community of Meriden where Bob could be closer to his IDS office in Cherokee while he continued work but could also built his “retirement shop” in preparation

for his full retirement in 2002. His work did not end. He fully restored a 1919 Traffic truck.

He built beds and cribs for his grandkids. He began to mass produce the Hand Cranks for the PET (Personal Energy Transportation) vehicles that are distributed to individuals who have lost use of their legs due to a variety of reasons including birth defects, accidents or left over war land mines in developing and war-torn countries. Bob has built miniature steam engine mod-



els and has also acquired a special interest in the reproduction of intricate antique clocks. He is currently in the process of building a reproduction of a Strutt epicyclic, 1829, clock. ALL parts except the spring and screws are built in Bob’s machine shop – every lever, every gear wheel, the face with numbers, etc. In addition it is often necessary to build special tools to make the special clock parts.



Bob was diagnosed with acute leukemia in November of 2012 but after treatment at Mayo Clinic he is again home, gaining strength, and appreciating remission status that, with appropriate rest periods, enables him to be back at work in his shop. His interesting antique clock project is nearing completion. Cards or emails from the many who have felt his influence would be welcome and can be mailed to Bob Franklin, 214 Falcon Court, P.O. Bos 126, Meriden, IA 51037 or email to paradox@netins.net.

Reunions

August 23—24, 2013

Class of ‘58—55-year reunion. Including the classes of ‘56 to ‘60

Sept 13—14, 2013

Class of ‘63—50th reunion and Class of ‘53—70th reunion, with invitations to the classes of 1940 to 1965 (except those who will be included in the Class of 58 reunion.)



Alumni Deaths

Western Union '44—**Marcille Lydia Gillespie**, 90, of Folsom, CA, died Nov 28, 2012. She was a teacher for whom family, friends and church were most important. www.sacramentobee.com

'40s—**Marjorie T. (Forsberg) Crow**, 88, of Hawarden, IA, died Mar. 30, 2013. She taught for 6 years before raising a family. She was active in church and American Legion. www.porterfuneralhomes.com

'40s—**Joan E. (Ludwig) (Jaminet) Schroeder**, 90, of Remsen, IA, died Mar. 19, 2013. After Westmar she taught in rural schools in the area. She was active in church and was known for making rosaries. She was a volunteer at nursing homes. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'50—**Arlo J. Muilenburg**—92, of Orange City, IA, died Feb. 23, 2013. She had a teaching career that spanned 46 years. She was recognized by Northwestern College in Orange City as Centennial Year Honor Alumna for her contributions to the field of elementary education.. She was very active in her church. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'50—**Elton Carey**, 87, of Fullerton, CA, died Jan. 30, 2013. He served in WWII returning to LeMars and later graduating from ISU. He worked for Proctor and Gamble as a chemical engineer and then Hunt Wesson Foods in CA. where he developed a procedure that resulted in eliminating trans-fats prior to trans-fats being acknowledged as a health hazard. Two brothers also attended Westmar, James (deceased) '49 and Richard '52. www.lemarssentinel.com

'52—**Dr. Wallace L. Vermeer**, 84, of Orange City, IA, died March 19, 2013. He was a successful veterinarian and active in his church. He enjoyed sports, traveling and family. www.oolman.com

'52—**Robert J. "Bob" Flaherty**, 85, of Peoria, IL, died Mar. 26, 2013. After serving in the US Army during WWII, he attended 3 semesters at Westmar before transferring to U. of Notre Dame. He accepted a position in the marketing department of Caterpillar Inc, where he remained until his retirement. www.lemarssentinel.com

'52 & Staff—**Ina (Mannetter) Smith**, 82, of LeMars, IA, died Feb 20, 2013. After one year at Westmar she worked as a secretary for the college president until her marriage. She worked for and then purchased Becker Tax Service. She is survived by husband Ron, atn'd '53 and daughters Sharon Cargin '78 (Richard '78), and Susan Betsworth.'78. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'57—**Eldon Sellers**—77, of Des Moines, IA, died Dec. 5, 2012. He taught elementary school in the Norwalk School District and they enjoyed camping with the Family of Camper RV'ers. He is survived by wife Glenda (Steele) who attended '56/'57. www.OvertonFunerals.com

'58—**Florence Wilmina (Vande Brake) Gunderson**, 91, formerly of Ponca, Neb. died April 6, 2013. After receiving her BA from Westmar she taught in Ponca for 18 years. She was active in church, youth activities and local AAL branch. www.siouxcityjournal.com

'80—**Bonnie Jean (Maver) Haahr**, 71, Lake Wabaunsee, KS, died April 17, 2013. Before moving to LeMars she was a designer of electric capacitors, some of which were used in the Apollo Space Program. She was active in Girl Scouts for many years. www.penwellgabeltopeka.com

'82—**Jon Rhode**, 59, Mapleton, IA, died Mar 15, 2013. He worked with disable adults in Vermillion, SD, and continued similar work at Mid Step Industries in Sioux City. Besides their children, they opened their home and hearts to over 30 foster children, adopting 5. www.siouxcityjournal.com

Staff:

Judy (Gunther) Mauer, 74, of Chicago, IL., died Feb 10, 2013. She was manager of the Westmar book store during the '80s and early '90s, before they moved to Chicago. She was full of life, love and laughter and had friends all over the country. www.lemarssentinel.com

Friends:

Gordon Mennen, 96, Bonita Beach, FL (winter residence) and Milford, IA, died Mar 21, 2013. World War II veteran, longtime NW Iowa banker and community leader, Gordon served on the Westmar College Board of Directors for 21 years. His son Gary atn'd with the class of '70. www.lemarssentinel.com

Rose (Long) Bolser, 100, of Denver, CO, died Mar. 23, 2013. She had a long business career, first working with husband Clark Bolser manufacturing truck safety equipment, and then with husband Norman Bolser in the LeMars Savings and Loan Association. She was a member of the Westmar Eager Eagles and sponsored Westmar Scholarships in the names of her husbands. www.lemarssentinel.com

Family:

Krisleah Kate (Schlender) Passaro, 45, Lyndhurst, NJ, died Feb. 21, 2013 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. A gifted vocalist and teacher, she was the daughter of **Dr. Keith ('61) and Shirley ('67) Schlender**. www.macagnadiffilyonoratofuneralhome.com

Katherine E. (Bartsch) Ennis, 94, formerly of Norfolk, NE, died Jan. 29, 2013 in Toledo, OH. She is survived by daughter, **Shirley L. (Keith '61) Schlender '67**. www.norfolkhomeforfuneralsinc.com

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.

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 Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association](https://www.facebook.com/WestmarUniversityAlumniandFriendsAssociation)—please "LIKE" us.



The Good Ole Days.....An undated photo from the archives. **Robert Darrah '58** writes that the runner is **Lloyd Kolker '67** who set records in the sprints and on relay teams from '64—'67, and this is probably a '66 or '67 season meet on cinder track! **Lowell Ensey '67** is timing, and he believes it is **Milt Martin** in the dark cap & coat on the right side. Striped goal posts in background indicate perhaps Northwestern or Dana College. Thank you so much Robert!



Robert Kolbe '64, of Sioux Falls, SD, invites fellow alumni and friends to The 24th Annual CWS June Event, on June 13, 2013, Stepping into History, Early Views of Dakota Territory, at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. He will be giving the program "Stepping into History", on historical photography and will have enlargements (6' x 4') of historical photographs from his collection. There will be antique photo equipment and he welcomes your oldest photo to place on display for the evening. The evening begins with a reception and includes dinner. For more information on this event, phone 605-274-4007 or www.angie.edu/cws



Robert is known to many as a former Minnehaha Co., Commissioner. He served in that office for twenty years. Some know Bob, also, as the one to call if your antique clock needs repair or if you find an old bottle in your back yard. But Bob is also an expert on early photography in Dakota Territory (the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming). He is co-author of *They Captured the Moment: Dakota Photographers, 1853—1920* (2006) and editor of *Minnehaha County Historical & Biographical Sketches* (1998). He is also an appraiser of historical books, documents, and photos.

Bob is the immediate-past President of the Minnehaha County Historical Society and the mayoral appointee to the Siouxland Heritage Museums Board for 2013. He has been a member of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees since 2004. A popular and long-time presenter at the CWS Dakota Conference, West River History Conference, and the State Historical Society History Conference, Bob has earned several recognitions, including the Distinguished Contribution Award for Preservation, given by the CWS Board of Directors, and the Zoom Zoom Award, given by the organizers of the West River History Conference.

He has made generous donations of historical items to such repositories as the Center for Western Studies, Siouxland Heritage Museums, and the State Historical Society. He is currently conducting research for a new book on stereographic views of the Black Hills Gold Rush, 1875—1879, and planning a second edition of *They Captured the Moment*.

WAFAs Dues Support These Activities:

- Work with the Iowa College Foundation to administer the Westmar Endowment Scholarship
- Help sponsor and organize Westmar reunions
- Publish WAFAs 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 WAFAs web-site westmarcollege.org

Don't forget to visit the website

Alumni News—ABOUT

Westmar Alumni and Friends Association

Board of Directors

The next Wafa quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held on July 15, 2013 in the Plymouth County Historical Museum's Welcome Room. All Wafa members all welcome to attend and are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

2013—Co-Chairmen are:

Cory Isebrand '88

Phyllis (Luken-Jacobson) Mitchell '90

Returning Members are:

Jan Wagner '76

Stuart Fischer '84

New Members are:

Lisa Langlitz '95

Angela (Webb) Kneip '87

Mary Mediauw Brown '82

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.

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.)



Lisa Langlitz graduated in the class of '95 with a BA in Psychology, Human Services; Adult and Human Services Child/Youth. Her family consists of her parents Randy and Lee and brother, Grant Langlitz '93. Grant is married and has 3 children who are a true joy in Lisa's life.

She works as Director at Cherokee County Community Services and administers the mental health and disability funding for services for individuals living in Cherokee County. She also supervises the case management program and oversees the general assistance program for the county.

Lisa chose to be on the Wafa board because her post secondary education was a real growing time for her and she enjoyed every bit of her time at Westmar. It gave her opportunities she's not sure she would have had at another university. Lisa wants to reconnect with people, share memories and help keep the memories we all cherish alive and enjoyable for others. She would like to help reconnect people with Wafa and encourage their participation in activities as well as help to preserve pieces of Westmar history.



Angela (Webb) Kneip '87

Angela "Angie" graduated with the Class of 1987 with a major in Accounting and Business and a minor in Finance and Economics.

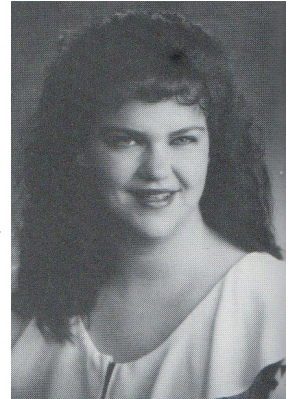
She is currently CFO & VP of Administration at BoDeans Baking Group in Le Mars.

Angie is married to Ron Kneip, a Commodity Broker, and they have two sons, Dylan, who is a sophomore at ISU and Dustan who is a senior at Gehlen Catholic School in Le Mars. Angie enjoys Rotary Club, YMCA activities, boating and spending time with her active family.

Mary E. (Mediauw) Brown

Mary is a member of the Class of '82. She attended Westmar from 78 through '81 where she was involved in vocal music and the Black Student Association.

Mary is a native of Waterloo IA. She currently resides in Sioux City, Iowa with her daughter, Mary Dee Brown, where they are known for their Gospel and Inspirational music performances.





Alumni News...continued

Football Reunion

With Jack Scott
At Portales, NM, Feb 22—25, 2013



Chuck Pfaffle and Jack Scott



Coach Scott and wife Roberta



Vince Erdmann, Larry Jensen, Bob Shaw



Conrad Adams, Rod Hench, Lowell Ensey, Dave Chittenden



Ronald Donald, Lyle Buddenhagen, Phil Langstraat, ShurrDean Ristau and Lloyd Petersen



Harlan Paetznick and Wendell McKensie



Gordon Klonps, Jack Scott, Dave Chittenden



Terry Christensen & Phalen Schuler



FR: Bev Pitkin, Jan Christensen, Marlys Buddenhagen BR: Diane Jensen, Linda Erdmann, Wanda Chittenden and Kate Shaw



Jack Scott and Tony Pitkin



Chuck Pfaffle

Because of snow delay, Donnie Huggins arrived after the event.

WESTMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
 335 FIRST AVENUE S.W.
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Alumni Office Staff

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

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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 **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.

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!

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



Westmar University Alumni & Friends Assoc.

Name _____

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City, State, Zip _____

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Can we e-mail your newsletter? Yes No

Attended Westmar _____ to _____ Class of _____

Membership fee: **Single \$20.00** \$ _____

Couples \$35.00 \$ _____

General donation to help sustain your Alumni Association \$ _____

In Memory/Honor of (person) _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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Please make check payable to WAFA

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