



## Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

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*Welcome to the first iteration of our new online newsletter! Three phrases came to mind repeatedly during my first few months working with WAFA: Change is constant, perfect is the enemy of good, and better late than never! ~carrie*

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### WAFA UPDATES

In August, Executive Director **Janice Kooiker** announced new WAFA staff. Since **JoAnn Schleis'** retirement, alum **Carrie Radloff** has been working with Facebook and the newsletter. She has a communications degree from Westmar and a Master's in Philanthropy from UNI. **Kristin Olson** earned an English degree from USD and currently lives in Hinton with her two daughters, served as WAFA's bookkeeper and membership administrator, and has taken on Janice Kooiker's duties following her retirement in November. Enjoy retirement, Janice and JoAnn!

Email Kristin at [wafa@westmarcollege.org](mailto:wafa@westmarcollege.org) and Carrie at [Westmar1997@gmail.com](mailto:Westmar1997@gmail.com).

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### ALUMNI UPDATES

'63 - **Sharon (Moline) Smith** has found a passion in metalsmithing working with metal and natural stones and built a studio in their walk-out basement. She teaches classes and participates in art shows throughout the Midwest. She also volunteers at New Hope, their Des Moines UMC, and has been chair of missions for several years. She and husband Lester ('63) live in Urbandale, IA. Siblings Roger, Robert, and Marjorie also attended Westmar.

'66 - WAFA received a card from **Brian Vandenberg** of Mason City, Iowa, the grandson of **Terry and Janice (Davolt) Christensen**: "Thank you for the scholarship! I really am grateful for the financial assistance. I'm looking forward to attending Northwestern College this fall. My grandparents enjoyed their experience at Westmar."

'68 - **Dale and Joan (Elsheimer) Darby** of Coffeyville, KS, celebrated 50 years of marriage in August 2019 with 65 friends and family in attendance. Correspondence from classmates can be sent to: 2468 CR 4550; Coffeyville, KS 67337.

'71 - **John R. Gible** fully retired from teaching college-level Sociology in May after 35 years with Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services. John transferred from Westmar to Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, in 1969, received a B.A. in Sociology, then earned an M.A. in Sociology from Ohio University in 1974. At Pennsylvania's DHS, he worked in mental health, medical assistance, policy program development, and social programs, and taught interpersonal communications with their management development program. In 2004, he started his "second career" teaching sociology as an adjunct at Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Valley College, Elizabethtown College, and the Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences. John and Alice (an LPN) were married in May 1972; they have two children, Heather and Eric, and two grandchildren.

'71 - **Dennis and Linda (Kehrberg) Smith** celebrated 50 years of marriage in July 2019. Dennis taught in the Le Mars Community School District for over 31 years, and Linda was the Plymouth County Deputy Assessor for 27 years. Daughter Kim Spier and her husband Russ live in Hartley, IA, and son Tait and his wife Elizabeth live in Woodland Hills, CA.

#### **Award is named Rebby to honor Dave Rebstock**

The Great Plains Athletic Conference has named its yearly Sports Information Director of the Year award "The Rebby" in honor of the late Dave Rebstock. Rebstock was sports editor for the Le Mars Daily Sentinel from 1981 to 1990, then served as SID at Westmar College from 1990 to 1997 before becoming SID and head golf coach at Morningside for more than 20 years. He passed away in June 2018. "Every year when this award is presented, we will have a reminder of the great man Rebby was and what he did for all of us in the GPAC," said Corey Westra.

Photo courtesy of [ktiv.com/2019/07/19/gpac-award-to-be-named-after-long-time-morningside-sid/](http://ktiv.com/2019/07/19/gpac-award-to-be-named-after-long-time-morningside-sid/)



## **REUNIONS**

See our Facebook [page](#) and [group](#) for more!

**The Class of '59 held its 60-year reunion** the last weekend of September, with guests from other years. Attendees included:

'51 - Dr. Robert Embree

'55 - Bruce Buller, Bill Arnold

'58 - Fred Shickell, Chuck & Marge Cleveland Kehrberg, Laurice Streyffeler, Shirley Walkup Arnold

'59 - LeRoy Munsch, Jeanette Claude Best and Joe Best, Roger and June Machmer Erdmann, Charlyn Frahm Shickell, Bill Wood and Ruth Wood, and daughter Carol Sandoval, Harold Biederman, Dwight Vogel, Marilynn Kammlade Forsberg, Deanna Moritz Robbins, Carla Lopez Brewster, Mary Elan Harr VerMulm, Donald Lange, Joe Brice, Byron Bowsher, Earl and Eunice Oehlerking Higgins

'60 - Vernon Robbins, Wanda Powell Schneider, Marlo Griebel, Stan and Norma Kammann Schmidt

'61 - Beverly Krueger Pitkin, Karen Mosimann Biederman, Dave and Lillian McKenzie Brice, Ken Krippner, Gay Feind Weber

'62 - Jolane Bakley, Tony Pitkin

'63 - Patricia Johnson Krippner

'68 - Pricilla Lopez Brigham



The Men's Ensemble was accompanied by **Joe Brice** on alto sax and was directed by **Vernon Robbins**.



The reunion choir singing "You are a Part of the Family."

### The Class of '69 celebrated 50 years this year!



Glenn Jagodzinske, Keith & Jan Brandt, Linda & Rich Gaumer, Bruce & Mary Rudolph, Milo & Jan Sprout, Brenda Jagodzinske.

**Central Iowa alumni gathered at the Urbandale United Church of Christ on October 26.**



Row 1: Carol Gordon Warmbier, Anne Illiano Engelbrecht, Linda Biederman Hink, Henrietta Klarenbeek, Jan Koenig Huff

Row 2: Bob Morris, Tim Hoffman, Sharon Smith, Dave Newendorp, Randy Oldfield, Kathy Turner

Row 3: Dave Sickelka, Eldon Nolte, Monte Leichsenring, Bob Wetherall, Tim Wilson

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## THOSE WE'VE LOST

*(Photos and links to obituaries are shared in an [album](#) at our Facebook page.)*

**Arlo R. Blumer** ('51) - May 18, 2019

After Westmar, he attended medical school at USD and Temple University. Arlo served in the army in Ethiopia from 1956 to 1958. Upon returning to the U.S., he joined a medical practice in Albert Lea, MN. Sister **Marileen** ('71) also attended Westmar, and his mother, **Mae**, was Wernli Hall Supervisor from fall of '69 to spring of '71.

**Lois Elinor (Hickman) De Boer** ('51) - August 14, 2019

Lois taught at a few other schools before settling at Hoover Middle School in Sioux City in 1966 where she taught for 26 years.

**Eugene Schroeder** ('52) - July 31, 2019

Eugene played center on the Westmar football team, and taught and coached at a number of schools before settling at Central Lyon for 17 years, where he also coached basketball and baseball. He served as mayor for Doon several times and became a master woodworker after retiring in 1992.

**Gene Russell Matthiesen** ('55) - June 28, 2019

Gene served in Korea and graduated from SDSU in 1959. He worked for Agrico Chemical in multiple locations for 33 years. Brother **Evan** also attended Westmar in '51/'52 and died in service of his country on August 23, 1956.

**Delores Vannatta** - September 16, 2019

Delores was manager of the Westmar bookstore. Husband **Darrel Vannatta** ('57) passed away in July 2013. Children include daughter Diane (Bruce) Lancaster of Le Mars and son Dennis (**Rita** ('78)) Vannatta of Sioux City.

**Curtis Ross** - July 9, 2019

Curtis attended Westmar in 1959 after an honorable discharge from the navy. Sister **Roberta** ('61) attended Westmar as well.

**Norma Kehrberg** ('60) - October 6, 2019

Norma is survived by and lifelong friend **Dr. Mona Bomgaars** ('60) and three brothers; Charles ('58). Please read more about Norma's life in service at [bit.ly/NormaKehrberg](http://bit.ly/NormaKehrberg).

**Judith Kay Beckett Carter** ('64) - April 7, 2019

Judy taught for a number of years while husband Ron attended medical school. She received a master's in special education from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1988. Judy's brain was donated to Northwestern University Neurology, where she participated in a six-year study of Primary Progressive Aphasia and Fronto-Temporal Dementia.

**Ethel Mary (Ortmann) Homan** ('67) - September 16, 2019

Ethel was a nurse for about 15 years, then graduated magna cum laude from Westmar and taught high school English at Remsen-Union for 26 years.

**Ralph Tomlinson** ('68) - April 25, 2019

Ralph met the love of his life, **Suzanne Dudley** ('69), at Westmar, and served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He kept busy after "retirement"; learn more at [bit.ly/RalphTomlinson](http://bit.ly/RalphTomlinson).

**Patricia (Welty Moen) Hawkins** ('71) - September 7, 2019

Patricia taught at Le Mars Community for over 26 years and was a member of the local AAUW. Stepdaughter **Nancy Peace** ('84) of Lee's Summit also attended Westmar.

**Becky (McDermott) Raasch** ('83) - September 23, 2019

Becky's lifelong passion was teaching and helping others; her sense of humor and wit were always ready to make someone smile. Brother **Steve McDermott** ('82) also attended Westmar.

*This quarter, **Beth & Dennis Johnson** donated in honor of **Dr. Wayne Marty, Marilyn Rendon** donated in memory of **David Hawkins**, and **Roger Hutchison** donated in memory of **Dr. Hayes McGraw**. Thank you!*

## Memory Book

*Honor a special member of our Westmar family with a donation to have a page dedicated to the individual added to the Memory Book displayed in the Westmar Room at the Plymouth County Public Museum. These will be made available online soon. Contact the WAFA office for information: [WAFA@westmarcollege.org](mailto:WAFA@westmarcollege.org) or 712-546-8759.*



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## SUPPORT WAFA

**JOIN!** Single memberships are just \$20.

**DONATE** through [Facebook](#) or the [website](#)!

**GIFT A MEMBERSHIP!** For just \$20 each, gift a WAFA membership to your classmates and help build our capacity to serve alumni and continue the Westmar legacy. Your classmates will receive a card and email acknowledging your gift (if we have their postal and email addresses!). Contact us for details.

**VOLUNTEER!** Can you help with museum displays, serve on the board or a committee, or coordinate a mini-reunion in your area? Maybe even write a feature article for the newsletter? Let us know!

**SHOP!** Order [custom clothing](#), or check out our [inventory](#) of vintage items and media.

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*Like our Facebook page and join our group to stay connected and informed. Our newsletter is nothing without you. Please tell us when alumni celebrate a milestone or pass away, or just let us know what you and others are doing and where they are. Email Carrie at [Westmar1997@gmail.com](mailto:Westmar1997@gmail.com).*

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