



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

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May 2020

Athletic director for Marcus-Meridan-Cleghorn-Rremsen-Union, **Mark Brighton** '87 is the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) 2019 NIAAA State Award of Merit recipient. He was to receive the award at the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association (IHSADA) state conference on March 30, 2020, but that event was cancelled due to COVID-19.



The annual award is provided by the NIAAA for recognition of meritorious dedication to high school and middle school athletics. The NIAAA cited his 27 years as an athletic director and role as the IHSADA Historian since 2012 for receiving the award.

Brighton said, "There's a lot of people in the state of Iowa that have got this award that are more deserving than me. Very humbling just because of the history of a lot of the other people that have got the award before me."

Brighton is a Certified Master Athletic Administrator, which is the highest of three levels of certification from the NIAAA. "You have to take several classes from the NIAAA and then also do a project that they have to approve," Brighton said.

Some of the main tasks for an athletic director include scheduling games, finding officials to work the games, and preparing the facilities. Brighton said he most enjoys seeing his work come to fruition when kids are able to go out and compete. "I like the organization of the job so that it gives kids the best experience that we can give them," Brighton concluded. <https://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/2680399.html>

Le Mars Coaches Enter IA HS Hall of Fame

Le Mars 1972 graduate Don Betts and 1982 graduate **Toby Lorenzen** '86 were inducted into the 2019 Iowa Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class on February 28, 2020.

Lorenzen, who coached at Central Lyon/George-Little Rock for over 20 years, said it is an honor to be selected for the Hall of Fame. "It's a big honor. You work hard. You try to put a program together that the school's proud of and the fans are proud of and you put a good product out there, good things happen. You win some games, you get some recognition for your school and things just go from there."

Despite the age difference, Betts and Lorenzen have become friends through coaching. "He was a few years ahead of me, but we've become friends through coaching...We've had a chance to talk many times, and it makes it a little bit more special," Lorenzen said.

Lorenzen said his father is his number one influence. He has always been there to offer coaching advice and how to treat people. He believed the kids should leave the field having had a positive experience.

Lorenzen stepped aside from coaching football after the 2016 season to allow one of his assistants to take over. However, he remains involved by offering coaching advice and serves as a strength and conditioning teacher.

"...I'd know when it was time to get out," Lorenzen concluded.



Don Betts & Toby Lorenzen

<https://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/2680603>

Westmar Park

On Saturday, April 25, 2020, volunteers gathered at Westmar Park for the annual park clean up. Leaves were raked, sticks picked up, and perennials were cleared of debris. Two hours were scheduled for the clean up, but with so many volunteers, it took less time.

The flag is once again hung and is now flying proudly over the park. If you happen to be in the area or out for a walk, please stop by and enjoy the park. A walk down memory lane is also in order with so many good memories of times at Westmar!

Thank you to our volunteers!

Brit Hassenius

Brock Hassenius

Shane Hassenius

Steve Wick

Jeff Neary

Craig Hoffman

Kristin Olson

Clayton Kooiker

Janice Kooiker

Cory Isebrand

Eric Isebrand



Positioning the sign for “Coach” Milt Martin under the tree donated by his grandchildren.





Steve Wick '78



Steve Wick '78



Janice Dunbar Kooiker '67



Jeff Neary '81



Alumni Deaths

'47—**Duane W. Lenz**, 95, of Lincoln passed away on April 21, 2020 in Lincoln. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. He served many United Methodist Churches in Nebraska until his retirement in 1991. He served on many church boards and committees. He also had many hobbies such as wood carving and stained glass. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, **Lucile** '49, 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, a sister, and 2 sisters-in-law. https://www.kearneyhub.com/obituaries/duane-lenz/article_906d8556-7aa1-57ce-b3f2-85643df1ebcf.html

'57—**Gary E. Manz**, 84, of Dothan, AL passed away on March 31, 2020 at his home after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. A private burial service will be held with a celebration of life service at a later date. After graduating from Westmar, he joined the United States Air Force. He later worked for many years at a paper mill. A special acknowledgement to his daughter-in-law Patricia Ball and her two children who cared for him through his later years. He is survived by his daughter, his daughter-in-law, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and 2 brothers. <https://www.wardwilson.com/obituary/Gary-Manz>

'59—**Francis Moran**, 97, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away on April 3, 2020 at Grand Living at Lake Lorraine in Sioux Falls. Before attending Westmar, he served in the U.S. Army. He later married and moved to Sioux City where he worked in business administration and accounting. In 1989, they relocated to Sioux Falls. They traveled the world with her siblings and their spouses. He is survived by his wife, Marcene, 3 children, and 2 grandchildren. <https://www.millerfh.com/obits>

'61—**Carol Junior "CJ" Parkinson**, 80, of St. Louis, MO passed away on April 30, 2020 at Mercy South Hospital in St. Louis from complications from COVID-19. A private family service will be held in Le Mars, IA. After graduating from Westmar, he was the band director at Gehlen Catholic School and later Meridan-Cleghorn Schools. In 1980, he moved to Missouri where he later married his second wife Connie. They resided in St. Louis where he managed a health food store until his retirement. He is survived by 1 daughter, Amy, 2 sisters, 6 nephews, 1 niece, and many friends. <https://mauerjohnsonfh.com/book-of-memories/4204689/Parkinson-Carol/index.php>

'62 – **Reverend Canon Ronald D. Osborne**, 79, of Iowa City, IA passed away on January 21, 2020. A memorial service and celebration of life previously scheduled for 1:00pm on May 23, 2020 at the Trinity Episcopal Church of Waterloo, IA, has been postponed until August 8, 2020 at 2:00pm. www.gayandciha.com

'63—**Byron "Mawingo" Jeys** passed away on March 18, 2020 in Rumphu, Africa. Mawingo, the name given to him by the villagers of Malawi, was a ranger in the Iowa National Guard and served in the Peace Corps where he first met the people of Malawi. Following the Peace Corps, he stayed in Malawi and taught for many years at the Pwezi Secondary school. He was a teacher and mentor to many. <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/byronl.jeys-mawingo>

'66—**Dana D. Herbert**, 75, passed away on April 23, 2020 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. A private service will be held. During her life, she was extremely involved in a number of community service projects. Because of this, she received numerous awards and commendations for her extensive fund raising efforts. She is survived by her husband, Richard, 1 son, a brother, and 2 sisters. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/elkridge-md/dana-herbert-9146829>

'85—**Sandra A. Ortmann**, 84, of Remsen, IA passed away on April 4, 2020 at Bavarian Meadows in Remsen. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was a private service held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Remsen. She was a farm wife and raised her family until deciding to return to college. She graduated in 1985 from Westmar College. She is survived by 9 of her children, 14 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, her sisters-in-law, and many nieces, nephews, and special friends. https://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/obituaries/sandra-a-ortmann/article_a1f5e323-3f82-59d1-a08b-95d6ac465e7b.html

Dolores J. Shuff, 89, of Le Mars, IA passed away on April 20, 2020 at the Good Samaritan Society in Le Mars. In 1969, she and her husband Roger moved to Le Mars and purchased a service station where she did the bookkeeping. After over twenty years, they sold the station, and she took a position as a cook at Westmar College. She loved cooking and remained there until retirement. Together, she and her husband made crafts and gardened. She is survived by 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters, and a brother. www.mauerjohnsonfh.com



Obituaries and news stories submissions:

Thank you to all those who submit obituaries and news stories to us. **Reminder** that there are copyright laws that we need to follow. If the obituary or news story comes from the media, we need the link as well. That way, we can share that with our readers who would like more information. Obituaries help us keep our data base up to date and save time in searching for people to invite to reunions etc. We also like to share the link in news stories as well. Unfortunately, we do not have room to tell the whole story.

DONATIONS MARCH—APRIL 2020

3/11/2020	\$30.00	E. Rodney Black
3/11/2020	\$15.00	Richard & Charlene Richardson
3/11/2020	\$30.00	Frank Summerside
3/24/2020	\$10.00	Judy Dillon
3/24/2020	\$20.00	Roberta Madland
3/24/2020	\$30.00	Jean Morton Stone
3/24/2020	\$5.00	Robert & Sharyn Taylor
3/24/2020	\$100.00	Walter & Virginia Zobel
3/31/2020	\$30.00	Maggie Chandler
3/31/2020	\$25.00	Terry & Janice Christensen
3/31/2020	\$10.00	Ester Handsaker
4/9/2020	\$35.00	Loren & Iola Mullins
4/9/2020	\$15.00	Jeff & Kathy Neary
4/21/2020	\$30.00	Amy Gerlach
4/21/220	\$5.00	Judith Holmes
4/21/2020	\$30.00	Linda Fish
4/30/2020	\$10.00	Bill & Shirley Arnold

In Honor/In Memory

\$25.00 Honor Donation for Janice Dunbar Kooiker '67 from Jean Morton Stone '54 for her years of service to WAFA.

\$25.00 Honor Donation for Keith Megill '54 from Jean Morton Stone '54.

\$25.00 Memorial Donation for Rev. Ronald Osborne '62 from Jean Morton Stone '54.

\$100.00 Memorial Donation for Dr. Hayes McGraw from Dr. Roger '63 & Mary Ellen Hutchison.

\$30.00 Memorial Donation for Norma Kehrberg '60 from DarEll Weist '62.

MEMORY/IN HONOR BOOKS

Making a donation in someone's name who is deceased places that person's information in a special section of our **MEMORY** book on a stand in the Westmar Room. The page will also include donor names.

Donations may also be made in **HONOR** of someone living, with Westmar ties. A page will also be entered for that person in that section of the book.

Each page includes a photo, if possible, and a biographical sketch. Additional donations are added to the bottom of the page.

Remember Westmar in Your Will

Many people choose to make their alma mater a beneficiary of their estate. Although Westmar is closed, it is still possible to support your college.

If your current will includes Westmar, please make sure it reads "Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association, 335 First Ave SW, Le Mars, IA 51031."

If you have not thought about a gift to Westmar, please do so. As a guideline, it should be worded "I leave \$xxxx to Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association, 335 First Ave SW, Le Mars, IA 51031. This will ensure that your generosity will continue to support the alumni association.

WAFA is a 501(c)(3) and is considered a charitable organization.

Speak to your attorney about a gift to your college. Thank you.

Alumni News

Anita Harrison Ervin '65—Taught elementary and junior high school music for over 30 years in Eaton, CO. The last 20 years of teaching, her time was split between teaching music and P.E. She also directed church choirs and sang solos. After divorcing her first husband, she later married Bob Ervin. Between the two of them, they have 13 grandchildren. Her husband Bob stays active by playing basketball, and she leads the singing at Eaton United Methodist Church.

Amy Gerlach '95— On January 31, 2020, at the Dakota Oyate Challenge, Amy was recognized for the Community Service Award. She received a Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Pendleton blanket. The statement posted on the school's Facebook account reads as follows, "Amy has been a Physical Education Teacher at Lower Brule (South Dakota) Schools for 22 years. Amy has positively impacted the lives of students at Lower Brule in many ways. She has been a lead teacher at the Lower Brule Elementary School, supporting the administration in organizing and implementing programs... Amy is a great role model for our students and an honorable member of the Sioux Family." https://www.facebook.com/lowerbruleschools/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDG8X9LC6kbpXF7BhlxZjsFUK3PaMsLo9wQUsDdJJ-cuFnn_7MKhhFydw9M1MM29EPcL3rmdAV1tcph



David '60 and Velma Krebs Bradley '60— After retiring in 2003, he has decided to officially retire from service to the Methodist Church. He spent much of his career as an editor for the church. He also spent a few years as a counselor and patient advocate for a head injury program. In 2012, he wrote a book, "A Pig in the Parsonage: Stories in the Life of a Pastor." Meanwhile, Velma served the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church in human resources for 34 years. They presently reside in Franklin, TN. Together, they have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. In August, they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Please visit the website (www.WestmarCollege.org) for your membership needs.

Please note: membership renewal notices will now be sent out via email, unless you receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

Please keep us posted when you move or get a new email address or phone number. We no longer get updates unless YOU let us know. Email Kristin at wafa@westmarcollege.org and let her know.

Also check the **MISSING** link on the website for any friends of yours for whom we are missing current information, email addresses included. It would be greatly appreciated! **Thank you!**



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 bookshelves and storage spaces. We will gladly accept donated yearbooks and other Westmar memorabilia. Specifically, we are missing copies of the '29, '42, '45, '58 '59, '60, '61, '65, and '75 yearbooks. A number of these have been requested. Your donations will be appreciated by many.

Thank you for considering Westmar (Wafa) in your future plans!

Reunions

Due to COVID-19, the City of Le Mars has cancelled Ice Cream Days. Therefore, the **80's reunion** has also been cancelled for this summer.

In addition, the **50 year reunion**, including the classes of '68, '69, '70, '71, & '72, has been put on hold pending more information about COVID-19. Should they decide to proceed, it will be held at the end of August/beginning of September. More information to follow.

Reunion Support Guidelines

- Publish reunion information provided by Committee on Facebook, WAFA Web Site and in WAFA Newsletter.
- Provide mailing labels or mailing list for sending invitations. (USPS only or USPS plus e-mail)
- Provide use of group e-mail for invitation and updates. Committee would provide copy of message to send.
- Provide information on a personal PayPal account to accept registrations. Alternative to accepting checks only. WAFA will assist with this.
- Provide contact lists of LeMars area hotels, caterers/restaurants, and meeting rooms.
- Make room reservation at LeMars Convention Center, if needed, to get 40% non-profit discount. Pay for room, to be reimbursed by Reunion Committee. (Reunion Committee would have to set up and take down the room. Reunion Committee would make alternative room arrangements (i.e. church, restaurant).
- Make Westmar Memorabilia available for purchase in the Westmar Room and the Museum sales area.
- Publish reunion pictures in WAFA newsletter if pictures are provided with names and reunion identification.

If you are planning a reunion, please let us know and we will list it in the WAFA newsletter, our Facebook page, and on our website. We can also assist with sending an email to your classmates or providing addresses.

We also love pictures of reunions no matter how large or small. Be sure to include information and names. We will share them!

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 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

Westmar University Alumni & Friends Assoc.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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 (circle one) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Return this form to:

WAFA

335 First Avenue S.W.

Le Mars, Iowa 51031

Or complete form online at www.westmarcollege.org/Membership.html

Westmar University Alumni & Friends Association
 335 First Avenue S.W.
 Le Mars, Iowa 51031
 Ph: 712-546-8759



Kristin Olson: Executive Director
Staff of volunteers

Please contact me with any questions about membership, newsletter, Facebook page, reunions, or anything else you may think to ask. Call me at 712-546-8759 or email me at wafa@westmarcollege.org. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed!

If you are considering what to do with any extra time you may have, consider volunteering for WAFA. We have quite a few projects that are currently on hold because of COVID-19. Once the restrictions ease up, we will need volunteers. If you are interested in learning more, contact Kristin Olson in the WAFA office.

Don't forget to use **AMAZON SMILE** when you order from them. They will donate to Westmar Alumni and Friends Association at no cost to you. It all helps us!

Be sure to check out our ever-changing website at: <http://www.WestmarCollege.org/>. We offer online shopping and membership. Suggestions are always welcome.

WAFA Dues Support These Activities:

- Work with the Iowa College Foundation to administer the Westmar Endowment Scholarship
- Provide Alumni & contact assistance for 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



Do you have any Westmar items you would like to donate to the Archives or for room display? We are always looking for Sports Memorabilia as well as items from other groups for display. Good copies of photos or certificates are also welcome.

