



## Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

May 2022



Imagine my surprise when I discovered this painting outside of the WAFA door! With no note attached, I consulted with Dr. Wayne Marty, my go-to for everything Westmar. With one glance, he said that it looked like a Kairong painting. Upon closer inspection, the signature did indeed say Kairong Liu, a former Westmar student who graduated in 1985.

Wanting to know more, I Googled him and discovered that he has a successful art gallery in Edina, MN. I filled out the contact form and waited to see if he would email me back. Imagine my surprise when I received a prompt request asking for a picture and a close-up of the signature.

"I think I did this one for the Department of Science. I have done some large ones of school's mask Eagles for the cafeteria. It was painted with oil on board in January, 1983," was his reply.

After graduating from Westmar, he attended the University of South Dakota where he received his Master's in Fine Art.

If you are ever in the Edina area, please stop in and see Kairong!

Kairong Liu's Art  
7455 Cahill Rd  
Edina, MN 55439  
<https://www.kairongart.com>



*One mystery still remains. Who donated this lovely painting to WAFA?*

## DONATIONS

### February 2022-April 2022

#### \$0-\$49

2/11/2022	Lisa Gottburg	General
3/22/2022	Roberta Graling Harris	General
3/24/2022	Marilyn Hawkins Rendon	General
3/24/2022	Marilyn Kammlade Forsberg	General
3/24/2022	Eldon & Lois Nolte	General
3/27/2022	George Giesler	General
4/6/2022	Terry & Janice Christensen	General
4/11/2022	Dale Stone	General
4/11/2022	July Adrian Holmes	General
4/12/2022	Nancy Heitmann Berry	General
4/26/2022	Linda Cravens Fricker	General
4/26/2022	Lorraine Davis	General
4/26/2022	Jeff & Kathy Neary	General
4/26/2022	Amy Gerlach	General

#### \$50-\$99

3/18/2022	Robert Mohning	General
3/24/2022	Richard & Jean Zietlow	General
4/11/2022	Gaylia Weber	General
4/12/2022	Paul & Patty Sneller	General

#### \$100 and up

3/19/2022	Daniel Wierda	General
3/21/2022	Dale Klockslem	General
3/24/2022	June Holzwarth James	General
4/26/2022	Walter & Virginia Zobel	General
4/26/2022	Melody Legg Korlaske	General

## Honor and Memory Contributions

*\$200.00 Memorial Donation for Frank Summerside from Marc Embree '71.*

*\$200.00 Memorial Donation for Dr. Robert Embree '51 from Marc Embree '71.*

*\$25.00 Honor Donation for Dr. Wayne Marty from Linda Scherbenske Faculty.*

*\$100.00 Memorial Donation for The Gwen Koth Family from David '66 & Gwen Koth Mead '64.*

*\$200.00 Memorial Donation for Lois Schlender Propp '52 from Joan Hilgenfeld Zoeller '52.*

*\$50.00 Memorial Donation for Dr. Robert Embree '51 from Linda Stauffer '69.*

*\$50.00 Memorial Donation for Frank Summerside from Linda Stauffer '69.*

## Honor and Memory Contributions Cont.

*\$100.00 Memorial Donation for Frank Summerside from John '66 & Elaine Nicolet Blinn '67.*

*\$200.00 Memorial Donation for Dallas Pals '58 from Larry '64 & Darlene Stadlander Pals '66.*

*\$100.00 Memorial Donation for Dr. Hayes McGraw from Dr. Roger Hutchison '63.*

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Please consider making your own donation to WAFA. WAFA relies on these donations to keep the office running. *We greatly appreciate it!*



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

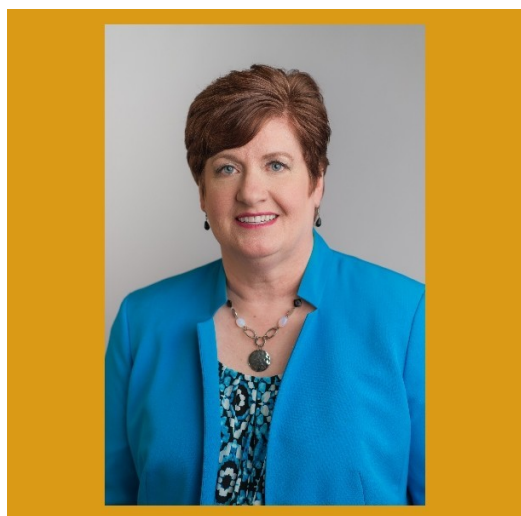
### From the Iowa College Foundation

This year, there were enough funds to award four \$5,000 Presidential Awards. All four recipients had 4.0 GPAs. The rest of the recipients received \$1,000 scholarship awards.

Recipient	Amount	Westmar Relation
Kaitelin Konz	\$5000	Lee Konz no grad year
Brady Van Meeteren	\$5000	Lois Funk Van Meeteren '60
Reece Spieler	\$5000	Cindy Daggett '86-'87
Ellie Hilbrands	\$5000	Hilda Snuttjer Hilbrands '51
William Tuchtenhagen	\$1000	Alan Tuchtenhagen '73
Kyle Brighton	\$1000	Mark Brighton '87
Teagan Slaughter	\$1000	Jeff Hammen '78
Taylor Meyer	\$1000	Daryl Meyer '95
Payton Slaughter	\$1000	Jeff Hammen '78
Rachel Langel	\$1000	Allen Pick '92
Kyleigh Weiland	\$1000	Erin Beck-Weiland '97
Jack McInnis	\$1000	Gregory McInnis '92
Patrick Gottburg	\$1000	Lisa Zellmer Gottburg '86
Hannah Van Meeteren	\$1000	Lois Funk Van Meeteren '60
Cheney Vander Berg	\$1000	Eldon Vander Berg '60
Daniel Hinds	\$1000	N/A
Kenna Kasel	\$1000	N/A
Brenick Birks-Hoppe	\$1000	N/A

***Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients!***

## Alumni News



**Rev. Martha Hicks Touchton '85**, of St. Mark's UMC, received the 2022 Rutherford ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award recognizes an individual who excels in her profession, gives back to the community, and helps raise up other leaders, especially women. Touchton was honored at a luncheon held April 29, 2022 in Murfreesboro, TN.

Touchton said in her ATHENA essay that she represents the ATHENA Leadership Model by living authentically, building relationships, giving back, fostering collaboration, courageous acts, life-long learning, fierce advocacy, and celebration and joy as a female member of the clergy.

Touchton said, "Often I must defend my gifts, call, and ordination with kindness and grace. It is by using the ATHENA attributes of relationships, collaboration, and courageous acts that I am able to serve as an effective leader in my personal and professional life."

Touchton serves as the Minister of Education at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, where she directs Christian education, adult, children, and family ministries, and leads in worship, congregational care, and spiritual formation.

Outside of church and family (she is married with four children), she is involved with the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Read to Succeed, Lionheart Chamber Orchestra, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ditsy Dots women's trio.  
<https://rutherfordsource.com/rev-martha-touchton-of-st-marks-umc-receives-2022-rutherford-athena-award/>

At the April 28, 2022, Le Mars Community Schools Foundation Banquet, **Kevin Westhoff '88** of Le Mars was formally recognized as the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award by the joint LCSD Foundation and Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Committee. He has taught at LCS since 1991.

His teaching assignments have ranged from high school PE classes, high school health classes, head strengthening coach, and for the past six years, in elementary physical education. His coaching duties centered on football, wrestling, and track.



Julie Beitelspacher, left, and Debra Ahlers presented Kurt Westhoff with the Le Mars Community Schools 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Terry Fitzgerald said in his nomination of Westhoff, "... He not only diligently works on the job but has also spent countless hours of his own time researching, attending clinics, conferences, and finding ways to enhance his lessons and practice plans with the pure goal of giving his students and athletes a more complete and fulfilling experience. Westhoff has also donated personal free time to benefit the youth of Le Mars."

Westhoff said, "I would like to thank all the students who have challenged me to become a better teacher and coach, as well as the parents for trusting me with their children."

Westhoff listed three things he wants his students to remember about him as a teacher, coach, and mentor. "I will be here for them; what they do is important to me; and, hopefully I treated them fairly," he concluded.

<https://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/2948746.html>



## Alumni Deaths

**'51—Allan Robert Sloan**, 88, of Cedar Rapids, IA, passed away on April 24, 2018. He met the love of his life, Enid, in 7th grade. After graduating from high school, he attended Westmar College before joining the Army. The corporate world found him and his family in California where he ultimately became the President of Tarbell Realtors. The Lord being at the center of their lives, the whole family became members of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Allan and Enid became the primary sponsors of Trinity High School Sunday School serving as mentors to many young men and women. Al's motto was to, "put God in the middle of everything." He is survived by 1 son and 1 daughter. <https://obits.ocregister.com/us/obituaries/orangecounty/name/allan-sloan-obituary?pid=189181565>

**'52—Ester Winborn Handsaker**, 91, of Colo, IA, passed away on May 15, 2022. After high school, she attended Westmar College and earned her Bachelor's degree in home economics. Her first teaching assignment was in Colo, IA. It was while singing in the church choir that her future mother-in-law saw her as a potential wife for her bachelor son Wayne. It was a partnership that lasted 50 years until his death. Ester managed the family farm until the very end. She was also very active in 4-H, as a leader and judging at fairs. Her faith kept her very active in the church and community. She had the gift of talking and always had something to say. To her, it could be a "teachable moment". Ester is survived by 2 daughters, 1 daughter-in-law, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, 1 sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. <https://www.amestrib.com/obituaries/p0210301>

**'53—Dr. Lloyd Arnold**, 90, of Mesa, AZ, passed away on May 2, 2022. After spending his first three years at Westmar, he then graduated from the University of Iowa. To further his education, he attended Still Osteopathic School of Medicine in Des Moines, IA. Most of his practice was in the Tucson and Phoenix areas. Eventually, one of the doctors he knew from Mexico invited him to come and help out. Once a month, he would load up his van full of various medical supplies and visit two Mission stations in Mexico catering to the poor in the area. (Information provided by his brother, Bill Arnold '55).

**'55—Rodney H. Scholten**, 93, of Le Mars, IA, passed away on March 23, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society of Le Mars. After graduating from Floyd Valley Schools in 1947, he began his college career in an ROTC program at Iowa State. Unfortunately, illness forced him to quit the program and return home. However, he was drafted into the marines during the Korean Conflict as an electronic and radio instructor. In

1951, he married Colleen Mulder. After Rod was honorably discharged from the marines, the couple returned to Le Mars to complete their degrees at Westmar College. Rod taught junior high industrial arts classes and completed his master's degree from the University of Colorado. Then, he was offered a job as a professor of industrial arts at Westmar College. When he retired, the couple traveled extensively. Rodney is survived by 1 daughter, 1 daughter-in-law, 4 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 1 brother, 1 sister-in-law, 2 brothers-in-law, and several nieces and nephews. <https://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/2941133.html>

**'56—E. Rodney Black**, 87, of Danube, MN, passed away at home surrounded by family on January 12, 2022. After graduating from high school in 1952, he attended Westmar College. In 1957, he married Mary Lee Thompson. After graduating from Westmar, the couple returned to Danube where he taught and coached his entire career, 1956 – 1992. He coached football, basketball, and baseball, but his favorite was basketball. He was enshrined in the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1988. Retirement did not change his routine of being at sporting events during all seasons. He and Mary Lee traveled to wherever their grandchildren were playing to watch. The other routine that never changed was coaching. He coached wherever he was at the time. He was also active in his church community and community organizations. Rodney is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. <https://dirksblem.com/tribute/details/1656/Rodney-Black/obituary.html>

**'58—Duane Weston Calvert**, 88, of Apache Junction, AZ, passed away on March 7, 2022 at a Queen Creek, AZ, hospital surrounded by his family. He donated his body to science. After graduating from Westmar College, he then served in the U.S. Army. In 1957, he married Julia Ullrich. He was known as a legendary teacher and football coach in Iowa High Schools for 20 years. After concluding his coaching career at Sioux City West, he transitioned into a successful business career building tracks and sports facilities for high schools and colleges until he retired in Albuquerque, NM. He was a devoted Notre Dame and Green Bay Packers fan. He was an avid golfer who loved the outdoors and fishing. Family and friends were important to him, and he loved family reunions in Northeast Iowa and Okoboji. *Services to celebrate his life will be held later this year.* He is survived by his wife, Julia, of 64 years, 3 sons, 4 daughters, 17 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/siouxcityjournal/name/duane-calvert-obituary?id=34233525>

## Alumni Deaths

'62—**Dean Paul Bonderman**, 84, of Noblesville, IN, passed away on July 28, 2020, at his home. He was a kind-hearted, honest, and hardworking man who valued education. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Westmar College and his doctorate in high temperature thermodynamics from the University of Iowa. While they were both working for the Iowa Community Pesticide Study, he met the love of his life, Pauline. After finishing his doctorate, he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Clinical Chemistry at Indiana University Medical School, which is where they raised their family. In 1987, they opened Analytical Control Systems (ACS), which is still operating today. He was a devoted father and loyal friend who found great joy in his grandchildren. He was also an active member of his church. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Pauline, 2 sons, 1 daughter, and 4 grandchildren.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/indystar/name/dean-bonderman-obituary?id=1867430>

'74—**Brenda Martin Rydberg**, 69, of Dassel, MN, passed away in her sleep on March 21, 2022. After graduating from Westmar College in 1974, she married LaDon Rydberg. She was a homeschool mother to their seven children. Her desire was that her children and grandchildren grow up to love God. She always had a love for people wherever she went, and she was passionate about studying God's Word and praying for others by writing scripture prayers. An example of her far-reaching influence is Farshad from Iran who called Brenda his very special American mom and whom she called her sixth son. He also claimed her as his spiritual mother as did many others. She is survived by her husband, LaDon, 5 sons, 2 daughters, 20 grandchildren, 2 sisters, 1 aunt (Brenda Rose of Le Mars), father and mother-in-law, 3 sisters-in-law, 2 brothers-in-law, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. <https://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/2941593.html>

### MEMORY/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.

## Alumni News

**Virginia Huppe** '60 is still living in Berthoud, CO, her hometown. While attending Westmar University, she earned her Bachelor's degree in music education. In 1993, she earned her Master's degree in guidance and counseling from Morningside College, Sioux City, IA. Virginia was recently elected President to the Berthoud Chamber. She has been an Ambassador for the Berthoud Chamber since 2016. She remains active playing harp and piano in her church.

**Amy Parkinson** '92 resides in Longmont, CO. She earned her Bachelors' degrees in child/youth human services and adult human services from Teikyo Westmar University. She has been working for 23 years for Centura Health. Amy is Virginia Huppe's daughter.

Three of four siblings have moved into a retirement home in Catonsville, MD, where they live in separate apartments, but they eat together twice a week. These siblings are **Wendel Thompson** '58, **JoAnn Wer** '59, and **Karen Johnson** '65.

### Please add WAFA to your email address book.

Don't miss a newsletter or important email message. **Some emails always come back to us as being blocked when the group email is sent. Even trying to send a blocked email by itself keeps it blocked.** If you are a WAFA member and haven't been getting your newsletters, this could be the reason why.

Please put **wafa@westmarcollege.org** into your approved emails so that you continue to receive messages and the newsletters.

Also, please let Kristin know when your information has changed at **wafa@westmarcollege.org**. Several membership renewal postcards have been returned because the information was not updated. We don't want to lose you!!!



## Alumni Flashback



*Left to Right—Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Marty, Lana and Brenda, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Snyder and Lori, Rev. and Mrs. Laurice Steyffeler, Lori and Curt, Mr. and Mrs. Skip Westphal and Kimberly.*

### Alumni, Instead of Stork, Make Flight

Last November, five alumni of Westmar College went on an adventure that they never dreamed, in their college days, would happen. They joined a group of 56 couples from Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and California to charter a turbo-jet airliner for a flight to Korea. The purpose of the trip was to arrange for the adoption of 83 Korean orphans.

This was an historical event in two respects. Never before had there been a mass flight of this nature overseas to arrange for the adoption of foreign children. During the flight over the Pacific, a church service was held aboard the plane. This also was a first, and Rev. and Mrs. Laurice Streyffeler conducted the service. Rev. Streyffeler is pastor of the Evangelical United Brethren church in Renwick, Iowa.

When the 56 couples arrived at the Holt Orphanage in Korea, they were directed to several different buildings to call for their children. By coincidence, the children of all five Westmar alumni, the Laurice Streyffelers, the Carroll Martys, and the Clarence Westphals, were waiting in the same room. Words fail to adequately describe the events which transpired that afternoon. It seemed as if the sky had opened and heaven had come down into that little room. Elaine Marty, with tears of joy running down her cheeks, was clutching her little daughter to her breast; Jennie Streyffeler and Marion Westphal, their eyes like stars, were hugging their little ones, which they had finally found after months of waiting and uncertainty. Those who participated in this joyous occasion will undoubtedly recall it many times during their lives.

All of the children adopted by the 56 couples who made the Korean trip were abandoned children. The rice famine of the past year had resulted in a great deal of suffering and in some instances, mothers took their children to the Orphanage because they did not have enough food to keep them alive. Most of the Holt orphans, however, are American Koreans, children of G.I.'s who are despised by the average Korean. These outcasts are often stoned and frequently killed. For most of them, their only future in Korea is to become beggars or thieves.

The Streyffelers, the Martys, and the Westphals brought back with them five Korean children: the Streyffelers, a boy and a girl, Kurt Alan 2 1/2 years and Laurie Ann, 8 months; the Martys, two girls, Brenda Joy, 2 1/2 years and Lana Kay, 9 months; and the Westphals, one girl, Kimberly Lynn, 3 1/2 years.

Harry Holt of Crewsell, Oregon, who operates the Holt Orphanage, is a former wealthy west coast lumberman who has given most of his fortune to this humanitarian work. His wife is his enthusiastic partner in promoting the adoption program. Although they have six children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Holt adopted eight Korean orphans and through their efforts have placed over 3000 Korean children for adoption in America.

*"Westmar Today" March 1964*

***A follow-up article about where these children are today will be published in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!***





## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:wafa@westmarcollege.org). Thank you!

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](mailto:wafa@westmarcollege.org) with the updated information.

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!

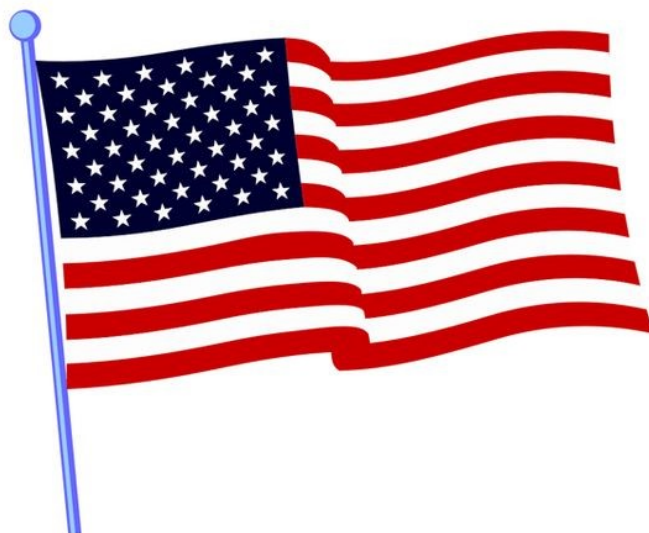
**Thank you!**

***Show your Westmar spirit!***

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

**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](http://www.westmarcollege.org)



Please be sure to pay your renewal dues to ensure that you will receive the next issue of the newsletter.

