



Westmar University Alumni and Friends Association

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 3

November 2023



Front row from left: MaeBelle (Maass) Powell, Jane (Hansen) Brown, Sara Jane Hauff, Wanda Chittenden, Marsha (Olson) Smeltzer, Terri (Hyndman) Luehring. Back Row: Eavon (Almquist) Woodin, Jeralyn (Dunn) Volkert, Marilyn (Hardersen) Murra, Bev (Nelson) Haack, Judy (Hardersen) Schwartz, Mary (Paulsen) Tuttle, Sherri (Chamberlin) Loots, Ede Breitmeier, Sue (Bird) Carr.

Allen Hamil ahamil@iowainformation.com

On June 17, 2023, Westmar coaches, alumni, and friends gathered in Le Mars, IA, to celebrate two events: the 50 year reunion of Westmar College's Iowa basketball championship and the advances made in women's athletics since the passing of Title IX in 1972.

Those who returned for the reunion were able to ride in the Ice Cream Days parade. Following the parade, around 40 individuals gathered at the Le Mars Convention Center for a luncheon and a trip down memory lane.

Scrapbooks and copies of old photos were shared along with a slideshow featuring more photos set to songs from the era.

Later, a tour around the former campus was led by Dr. Wayne Marty. A stop included the YMCA indoor pool, which was the site of the gym and basketball court where many shots were taken through the years. They even took some shots at the Y gym, which is still emblazoned with the Westmar name and logo. https://www.nwestiowa.com/sentinel/former-westmar-women-s-athletes-return-to-le-mars/article_df98754e-19d8-11ee-8257-b35e082b5737.html

DONATIONS**April 2023 - October 2023****DONATIONS****April 2023 - October 2023****\$0-\$49**

Terry & Janice Christensen	General	4/13/23
Keith Emerson	General	4/13/23
Anita Harrison Ervin	General	4/13/23
Judy Brookhart Fry	General	4/13/23
Robert & Sharyn Taylor	General	4/13/23
Lee Wiersma	General	4/13/23
Judy Henry Dillon	General	5/8/23
Roberta Graling Harris	General	5/8/23
Judy Adrian Holmes	General	5/8/23
Beverly Job	General	5/21/23
Robert Moline	General	5/21/23
Mary Potter Peshek	General	5/21/23
Rebecca Pierce	General	5/21/23
Les & Hope Law	General	6/3/23
Leroy Pickett	General	6/3/23
Linda Brown	General	6/23/23
Ben Bye	General	6/23/23
Cindi Metzger	General	6/23/23
Deloris Bechtle Knight	Memorial	6/23/23
<i>Memorial for Phyllis Miller '59</i>		
Marge Cleveland Kehrberg	Memorial	7/5/23
<i>Memorial for Charles Kehrberg '58</i>		
Garwood Mayer	General	7/20/23
Marilynn Vollmecke	Memorial	7/20/23
<i>Memorial for JJ Vollmecke '93</i>		
Rena' Hargens Raecker	General	8/10/23
Mary Tindall	General	8/10/23
Joyce Fridley Duncklee	General	8/27/23
John Gibble	General	8/27/23
Kenneth Boettcher	General	9/1/23
Paul & Marcia Wiener	General	9/1/23
Wayne Mitchell	General	9/3/23
Gayle Gehring Krughoff	General	9/12/23
Dean & Susan Trapp	Memorial	9/20/23
<i>Memorial for Frank Summerside</i>		
James Ritz	General	10/13/23
William & DeeAnn Oliver	General	10/16/23
Marilyn Merchen Birmingham	General	10/30/23
Kenneth Hellar	General	10/30/23
Elaine Brant Schrader	General	10/30/23

\$50-\$99

Rosella Campbell Davis	General	4/13/23
MaeBelle Maass Powell	General	4/13/23
Jan Baier Trometer	Memorial	5/8/23
<i>Memorial for June Marty '53</i>		
Dorothy Beeghly Carver	General	6/3/23
Ellen Waterman	General	6/3/23
Wilma Bryan	General	6/23/23
Roberta Graling Harris	General	6/23/23
Eldon & Donna Reich	General	6/23/23
Nancy Moerer	General	7/5/23
Marc Embree	General	8/17/23
Don Featherstone	General	8/27/23
Michael & Marcia Pavey	General	9/3/23
Roger Hutchison	Memorial	9/13/23

*Memorial for Dr. Hayes McGraw***\$100 and up**

Melody Legg Korlaske	General	4/13/23
Walter & Virginia Zobel	General	5/8/23
Richard Molden	General	6/1/23
Lloyd & Marilyn Christmore	General	6/3/23
Jean Tarr Hefty	Memorial	6/23/23
<i>Memorial for Robert Hefty '57</i>		
Niki Knapp & Derek Briggs	General	7/5/23
Kathy Schafer Oplinger	General	7/20/23
A. John Martin	General	8/27/23
Daniel Wierda	General	10/20/23

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

**WAFA relies on these donations to keep the
office open.**

We greatly appreciate it!



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

Alumni Deaths

‘49—**Lorene Buss Kehler**, 97, of Holton, KS, passed away on June 28, 2023, at McCrite Plaza in Kansas City, MO. She is survived by 3 sons, 1 step-daughter, 2 sisters, 9 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. <https://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com/obituary/lorene-kehler>

‘50—**Betty Kay Hacklander Hulsebus**, 92, of Blue Earth, MN, passed away on July 30, 2023, at Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. She is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren with 2 more on the way, 1 sister, 1 sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/betty-hulsebus-obituary?id=52611774>

‘51—**William “Bill” Condon**, 94, of Dallas, TX, passed away on May 4, 2023, in the Hospice Unit of Texas Health Presbyterian Dallas. He is survived by his wife Merle, and 2 sons. <https://obits.dallasnews.com/us/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/name/bill-condon-obituary?id=51922245>

‘51—**Mildred Joan “Jo Ann” Marlin Beary**, 91, of Lovilia, IA, passed away on September 10, 2023, at West Ridge Specialty Care in Knoxville, IA. She is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 16 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. <https://tharpfh.com/obituaries/Mildred-Beary/#!/Obituary>

‘51—**Lloyd Arthur Epley**, 97, of Coralville, IA, passed away on September 21, 2023, at Lantern Park Specialty Care. He is survived 1 son, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/globegazette/name/lloyd-epley-obituary?id=53214152>

‘52—**Leslie Witt Kesser**, 92, of Cedar Rapids, IA, passed away May 2, 2023, at Meth-Wick Community. She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 1 sister, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. <https://www.cedarmemorial.com/Obituary/2023/May/Leslie-R-Kesser/>

‘52—**Marilyn Fisher Minter**, 92, of Lee, NH, passed away on April 25, 2023. She is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, her twin brother, 1 sister, and her ex-spouse. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/marilyn-minter-obituary?id=53200517#:~:text=Marilyn%20Joy%20Minter%2C%2092%2C%20of,Dakota%2C%20on%20the%20Canadian%20border.>

‘52—**Dr. Charles Tucker**, 95, of Storm Lake, IA, passed away on June 13, 2023, at his home at Lake Pointe Villa. He is survived by 3 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 brother-in-law, 1 sister-in-law, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. <https://www.stormlake.com/articles/dr-charles-tucker-obituary/>

‘54—**Elizabeth “Betty” Plummer Loper**, 90, of Faribault, MN, passed away on May 12, 2023 at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault. She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 1 sister, and other relatives and friends. <https://www.albertleatribune.com/2023/elizabeth-l-betty-loper/>

‘55—**John Frederick Drew, Jr.**, 94, of Sun City West, AZ, passed away peacefully at home on February 1, 2022. He is survived by his wife Betty, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 grandson, an honorary family member, many nieces, nephews, and friends, and wonderful neighbors. [Submitted by his wife, Betty.](#)

‘55—**William Eyres “Bill” Kehrberg**, 90, of Sheldon, IA, passed away on May 12, 2023 at Sanford Sheldon Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Carleen, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 2 step-granddaughters, 1 brother, 1 sister-in-law, and other relatives and friends. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/siouxcityjournal/name/william-kehrberg-obituary?id=52063991>

Alumni Deaths

'55—**Shirley Larsen Steffe**, 91, of Hot Springs, SD, passed away on April 29, 2023, at Seven Sisters Nursing Home in Hot Springs. She is survived by her husband, Dirl, 1 son, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, and numerous nieces and nephews. <https://www.chadronradio.com/shirley-steffe/>

'57—**Robert Hefty**, of Florence, OR, passed away on April 6, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Jean, and 1 son. [Submitted by wife, Jean Tarr Hefty.](#)

'57—**Carol Hollander Ver Hoef**, 87, of Rock Rapids, IA, passed away on November 8, 2023 at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage in Luverne, MN. She is survived by 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 1 brother, 1 sister, 2 sisters-in-law, and extended family and friends. <https://jurrensfuneralhome.com/obituary/carol-ver-hoeff>

'58—**Derwood Keith Koenig**, 87, of Greenfield, IN, passed away May 11, 2023 at Community Hospital North. He is survived by 1 brother and many cousins. <https://www.greenfieldreporter.com/2023/05/16/derwood-koenig/>

'58—**Evelyn Trost Woolston**, 86, of Boone, IA, passed away August 29, 2023. She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, and 2 brothers. <https://belltimescourier.com/2023/09/07/evelyn-woolston-2/>

'59—**Sara Sue (Susie) Allen Van Marel**, 85, of Rockwall, TX, passed away on July 16, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Carl, 3 sons, 3 daughters, 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, and a brother and sister-in-law. <https://www.resthavenfuneral.com/obituaries/Sara-Van-Marel/#!/Obituary>

'61—**Edward Floyd Johnson**, 84 of Madison, WI, passed away on August 29, 2023, at UW Health East Madison Hospital. He is survived by 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. https://www.channel3000.com/obituaries/edward-floyd-johnson/article_488d8026-49a4-11ee-ac7a-a7486810ad10.html

'62—**Rev. Howard Wesley Bredesen**, 83, of Coffeyville, KS, passed away on February 1, 2023, at his home surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife, Judy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 son-in-law, 1 granddaughter, and his beloved nieces and nephew. <https://www.fordwulfbrunschapel.com/obituaries/revhoward-bredesen>

'63—**Jon "Jack" Cowan**, 82, formerly of Le Mars, IA, passed away on October 11, 2023, at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, IA. He is survived by his wife, Charlene, 1 sister, and several special nieces and nephews. https://www.nwestiowa.com/obituaries/jon-cowan-82-formerly-of-le-mars/article_cb8049fe-6c69-11ee-bd71-67b436d36dc7.html

'64—**Doris "Deanna" Green Bradford**, 82, a resident of the Cornelius community, passed away September 19, 2023, at St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, OR. She is survived by 1 daughter and 1 grandson. <https://www.tualatinvalleyfa.com/obituaries/Doris-Deanna-Bradford?obId=29157532>

'66—**Larry Allen Mueller**, 79, of Danube, MN, passed away September 12, 2023, at his home. He is survived by 6 daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 3 sisters. https://www.willmarradio.com/obituaries/larry-mueller/article_ff2b6386-532f-11ee-980b-07f612cb41e3.html

'67—**Gary Denniston**, 82, of Charles City, IA, passed away from pancreatic cancer on May 16, 2023, in the palliative care unit of the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, MN. He is survived by his wife, Judy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, 2 brothers, and 1 sister. <https://kchanews.com/2023/05/22/gary-denniston-82-charles-city/>

'67—**James Alan Van Pelt**, 79, of Marion, IA, passed away on June 7, 2023, in Cedar Rapids, IA, surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 stepson, 8 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, 1 brother, and 1 sister. www.ogdenreporter.com/content/james-van-pelt-0

Alumni Deaths

'68—**Linda Wise Stengel**, 77, of Sioux Falls, SD, passed away on June 30, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Jack, 2 daughters, and 1 grandson. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/keloland/name/linda-stengel-obituary?id=52364433>

'68—**Dale E. Sundermann**, 77, of Atlantic, IA, passed away on May 25, 2023, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by his wife, Sheryl, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 3 brothers, 1 sister, 3 brothers-in-law, 2 sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews, family members, and friends. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/atlanticnewstelegraph/name/dale-sunderman-obituary?id=52090338>

'70—**Douglas P. Kunze**, 76, of Persia, IA, passed away August 15, 2023, at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, IA. He is survived by his wife, Glenda, 2 sons, 3 grandsons, 1 sister, 1 sister-in-law, 1 nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends. <http://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/nonpareilonline/name/douglas-kunze-obituary?id=52728408>

'71—**Blaine John McCollough**, 75, of Webster City, IA, passed away on July 25, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, 2 daughters, 2 bonus daughters, 1 bonus son, 12 total grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother-in-law. <https://www.freemanjournal.net/obituaries/2023/07/blain-mccollough/>

'72—**Cheryl Frey Lyall**, 72, of Indianola, IA, passed away unexpectedly on November 19, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Robert, 2 daughters, 1 grandson, 1 brother, 3 sisters-in-law, and nieces and nephews. <https://legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/cheryl-lyall-obituary?id=53655888>

'74—**Carol Erickson Shirk**, 71, of Forest City, IA, passed away on September 8, 2023, at Manly Specialty Care in Manly, IA. She is survived by her husband, Randy, 2 sons, 5 sisters, 5 grandchildren, and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. <https://kiow.com/2023/09/11/carol-sue-erickson-shirk/>

'75—**Michael Frank Zeller**, 70, of Ames, IA, passed away on July 24, 2023, at the Mary Greeley Hospital in Ames, IA. He is survived by his wife, Colleen, 1 daughter, 2 stepchildren, 1 step-granddaughter, and 2 brothers. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/michael-zeller-obituary?id=52566910>

'83—**Delores "Dee" Johnson Ashley**, 80, of Sioux City, IA, passed away on October 6, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Art, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 3 sisters, and many nieces and nephews. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/siouxcityjournal/name/delores-ashley-obituary?pid=205461661>

'85—**Timothy "Tim" James Hadden**, 61, of Le Mars, IA, passed away on April 23, 2023, at Mayo Hospital in Rochester, MN, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Kacey, 3 sons, 2 step-daughters, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, and special family friends. https://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/obituaries/timothy-james-tim-hadden/article_beebd69c-722c-5e5c-86fb-afb74b2439fa.html

Carolyn Hobel Thompson, 85 (spouse of Wendel Thompson '58), of Catonsville, MD, passed away on February 1, 2023 at her home in Charlestown Retirement Community. She is survived by her husband, Wendel, her twin brother, twin daughters, 1 son, and 7 grandchildren. *Submitted by Wendel Thompson.*

Susanne Taylor Copenhaver, 78 (spouse of David Copenhaver '86), of Le Mars, IA, passed away on May 12, 2023 at the Good Samaritan Society in Le Mars. She is survived by her husband, David, 1 sister, 2 brothers, and many nieces and nephews and their children. <https://mauerjohnsonfh.com/book-of-memories/5193373/Copenhaver-Susanne/index.php>



Alumni News

Leroy K. Pickett '58 and Mary Joyce Pickett celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 16, 2023. They currently live in Downers Grove, IL.

Submitted by Leroy K. Pickett.

Virginia Huppe '60, of Berthoud, CO, was chosen as "Citizen of the Year" and "Grand Marshall" of the parade. After retiring, she returned to Berthoud. Wanting to give back to her community, she became a full-time volunteer for the Berthoud Historical Society. In 2016, she became involved with the Berthoud Area Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador, later becoming a board member, and in 2022, board president. "(Volunteering) does a lot for the people who do it," Huppe said. "It makes you aware of what's around you, and you find out things. If you can help somebody, that gives you a great feeling you can hold inside." *Widhalm, Shelley. "The pioneer poet of Berthoud, Virginia Huppe." Berthoud Weekly Surveyor. February 23, 2023.*

Gary Paulsen '63 and Carolette Hurley Paulsen '65 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 18, 2023. They were married in 1963 in Carolette's hometown of Grand Island, NE. They currently live in Madrid, IA. <https://www.ogdenreporter.com/content/paulsens-celebrate-60th-anniversary>

LeRoy and Elaine Brant Schrader '69 of Lancaster, KS, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2023. They have 2 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. They are retired farmers. *Submitted by Elaine Brant Schrader.*

Kevin Hanson '76 lives in Arlington, TX where he runs his business of 15 years, Wiz Wurks. He designs and makes, or has made for him, custom parts for the Chevy Trailblazer SS SUV 06-09, which has the 400 Hp Corvette engine in it. He and another student, **Keith Davis '78**, transferred from Waldorf Junior College in 1974. In 2024, they will celebrate their 50th reunion from Waldorf. "We sort of helped pull the college (Westmar) back together racially in that first year on campus not knowing of the events from the prior year, which had caused some racial divide on the campus," says Kevin. He says they were known as "salt n pepper" because no one or nothing could come between them and their friendship. They are still good friends to this day.

Jean Janssen Groth '78, longtime Wisner-Pilger head volleyball coach, was posthumously inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of fame on October 1, 2023. <https://ruralradio.com/ktic/news/longtime-wisner-pilger-volleyball-coach-jean-groth-inducted-to-nebraska-high-school-hof>

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, 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.

Like us on our Facebook Page!

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.

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.

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

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 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!

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 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



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

