Faith
AT
WESTMINSTER

President’s Report Roll Call of Donors Inside
Dear Westminster Friends:

You will read in this issue about the renovation and rededication of Old Main, the construction of the Berlin Village Townhouses, the renovation of Thompson House and dedication of Wiley Alumni House. So… what is next? I am glad you asked!

Looking down the list of projects in the Strategic Plan for Westminster you would see that our library is the renovation next in line. It is a building that deserves the attention of all of us because it is the heart of our academic enterprise. McGill Library is as relevant today as it was when it was constructed in 1938, thanks to its state-of-the-art information technology and wonderfully accomplished, professional, caring librarians led by Molly Spinney.

We are working with the architects to add capacity for additional acquisitions and ensure that the library will be a central feature on our academic landscape for years to come. The resulting plans will make McGill more accessible, more usable, and more comfortable for our students, faculty and community members.

We hope to raise $4,000,000 in time to start work in the summer of 2007 so this repository of knowledge will continue to be a point of Westminster pride and progress – one more way in which the College can become ever-better.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Williamson
Westminster Celebrates Rededication of Old Main
College unveils $3 million renovation to signature building.

Homecoming 2005

Keeping the Faith
Spiritual life alive and well at Westminster.

New Wilmington Missionary Conference Celebrates 100 Years
Over 180 mission workers commissioned for service at annual gathering.

Titans Helping Others
At home...and abroad.

The Merry Mission to Malawi
Dan and Beth Merry and their two children spend a year in Africa.

My Adventures in Malawi
Alumna focuses on improving education in African schools.
Intern Spearheads Iraq War Memorial

Senior PR major a driving force behind memorial to Western Pennsylvania soldiers

Lindsay Painter, a senior public relations major at Westminster, made the most of her summer internship for the regional Veterans Administration office, spearheading the creation of a memorial to Western Pennsylvania soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Fallen Soldier Memorial, consisting of a pair of boots sitting beneath a replica of an M-16 rifle topped with a helmet, was unveiled in August and now sits in the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in downtown Pittsburgh. Dedicated to 46 fallen soldiers, the memorial also includes a flag bearing the inscription “Lest they be forgotten.” Visitors can also flip through a scrapbook with information on the soldiers honored.

“I lost a friend, Josh Henry, in September of 2004,” Painter said. “He was one of the soldiers honored, and he was the reason it meant so much for me to do this. Josh and I went to high school together in Apollo. He was only 21 when he died. His family came to the dedication ceremony.”

Ninety invitations were sent to family members to attend the dedication ceremony and more than 200 relatives and friends attended the service.

“I thought I’d be a shadow, but I was asked to jump right in and get started,” Painter said. “I had no budget, so I asked for donations. One of the hardest things to find was the M-16 rifle. The Etna American Legion bought a replica for the memorial and donated it. The Pittsburgh Trophy Company donated two large plaques inscribed with the name and branch of service of each person. I had to use the Report of Casualty military orders to contact the families and get the biographical information for the scrapbook that’s on display with the guest book in the lobby. Talking to the families was the most difficult part of the job.

“I couldn’t have done this project without the foundation received at Westminster. The public relations department prepared me with people skills and public relations writing.”

Record Number of Students Studying Off-Campus

Forty-three Westminster College students are studying in Australia, England, France, Spain, and Pittsburgh during the fall semester.

“Study abroad is the best opportunity our students have for learning about the larger world that’s out there,” said Jeffery Bersett, director of off-campus study and assistant professor of Spanish. “Going overseas shows them more than just new places. They return to Westminster with new ways of looking at things, and with a new understanding of how everything fits together.”

As part of their educational program, Westminster College students can spend as little as a month, or as much as a year, living and studying in an international domestic program. Students who study off-campus are able to earn not only credits towards graduation, but also credit towards their major or minor, and fulfill part of the Liberal Studies requirements.

“International study is a life-changing event in the life of a college student,” said Jesse Mann, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College. “Only 2 percent of American college students study abroad during their college experience, and we’re happy that Westminster is significantly ahead of that average.”

Westminster-Dominion Settlement Reached

Westminster College and Dominion Peoples have reached a settlement in regards to a billing disagreement. Details of the agreement will remain confidential as agreed to by both parties.
Titan Radio Now Available Online

The Westminster College radio station, WWNW Titan Radio Digital 88.9-FM, can now be heard on the Web 24/7 at www.titanradio.net.

Streaming the Westminster College radio station over the Internet was made possible by adding additional bandwidth on the College system and a settlement with the music recording industry, which allows college stations to pay a low yearly fee for streaming music copyrights.

“Now our programs can be heard by Titan sports fans anywhere in the world, and parents of broadcasting students can hear their children on the air without having to drive to campus,” said David Barner, associate professor of broadcast communications and chair of the Department of Communication Studies, Theatre, and Art.

The remainder of the Titan football schedule was broadcast on the Web, and all broadcasts from the upcoming basketball season will be carried live on www.titanradio.net.

“The use of the Web page for streaming music and sporting events is only the beginning of the department’s plans,” Barner said. “By spring, the station will archive sporting events, so that fans can hear the game at their convenience.”

The station is also using the new Web address as a means of distributing local news. By going to the Titan Radio Web page, users can choose local news stories, many with sound and video.

“Creating news stories for the Web positions our students for the future,” said Brad Weaver, instructor of broadcast communications and adviser of the College’s radio and TV news operations. “The major news media are all extensively using Web technology.”

This summer WWNW also upgraded the computer software to include RCS Master Control 15.

“Five years ago, Westminster was one of the first college radio stations in the country to run all its programming on computer,” Barner said. “With the new computers, we have been able to upgrade to the latest improved version of the RCS automation software.”

“To get hired in today’s highly competitive radio business, a solid foundation in broadcast hardware and software is a must,” said Philippe Generali, president of RCS Inc. “Westminster offers world-class facilities and great training to provide precisely this foundation. Knowledge of widely used broadcast systems offered at Westminster provide a much-needed jump start for the radio leaders of tomorrow.”

Barner agrees. “When our students enter the job market, potential employers are impressed that they already know radio station computer software. At Westminster, we try to operate our radio station as professionally as possible, so that our students have an edge in the job market. Radio is still people. Training our students to develop their talents while using the latest technology is a great combination.”

Na Delivers 2005 Henderson Lecture

Assistant professor of religion Kang-Yup Na presented the 21st annual Henderson Lecture Oct. 5 at the McKelvey Campus Center. His lecture was titled, “In a Mirror, Dimly: The Historicity and Metaphoricity of Paul.”

Before the lecture a reception was held in the Witherspoon Lakeview Room. Joseph Henderson (front row center), professor emeritus of education at Westminster and founder of the lecture series, posed for photos with Na (at far right) and past lecturers, including: Russell Martin, Ed Cohen, Bryan Rennie, Carol Bové, Darwin Huey, Barbara Faires, Sandra Webster, James Hall, and Alan Gittis.
Charlene Endrizzi, associate professor of education at Westminster, was recently published in the Ohio Journal of English Language Arts. “My research, ‘Honoring Parents Questions: Room 2A’s Family-Teacher Literacy Conversations,’ is based on a year-long study conducted in a second grade classroom several years ago,” Endrizzi said. “The classroom teacher, Karen Tarka, spent the year looking at ways to build a more productive literacy partnership with parents. Monthly family literacy gatherings enabled them to learn about these second grade families’ literate ways of knowing and to share their beliefs about reading and classroom practices.” The article was co-authored by Tarka, who received her master’s from Westminster in 1997.

Rita Akin, assistant professor of economics at Westminster, attended a seminar sponsored by the Center for International Education Exchange on the transition of the Czech Republic and Hungary to multiparty, free-market economies. “The seminar in Hungary and the Czech Republic allowed me to learn about the difficult, yet eagerly awaited, transition these countries went through and are still going through from a centrally planned communist state to a multi-party, free-market economy, directly from those citizens and educators who lived through it and participated in designing it,” Akin said.

David Shaffer, an assistant professor of computer science at Westminster, recently presented a talk on the “Seaside-Testing” framework at Smalltalk Solutions Conference in Orlando and the European Smalltalk Users Group Conference in Brussels. The conferences were attended by software developers and professors interested in the Smalltalk programming language and environment. For the past two years, Shaffer has been actively developing the software, SeasideTesting, a framework for testing Web server applications. While at the conference in Brussels, Shaffer presented another testing framework, which he has developed, called “Squellenium,” and chaired a session on Smalltalk in education. While at the conference in Orlando, Shaffer met with Eric Evans, author of Domain Driven Design. “His book is a potential textbook for our capstone course, and I had the unique opportunity to sit with him and discuss what parts of it Westminster might be able to use,” Shaffer said.

Robin Lind, director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at Westminster, recently attended the Rene Clausen Choral School workshop. “I was looking for a workshop that would assist me in taking the choral program here at Westminster to a new level of artistry and excellence,” Lind said. “The Choral School at Concordia College, led by Rene Clausen, turned out to be perfect. Along with rehearsals of Brahms, I attended reading sessions of new choral works, workshops on technique, improving choral intonation and tone quality, and question-and-answer sessions with Dr. Clausen on a variety of topics.” The major focus of the workshop was the performance of the Brahms’ “German Requiem” which was accompanied by the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, performed by 62 Choral School participants and 40 area singers to a sellout crowd.

Martha Joseph, associate professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry at Westminster, is serving on the 2007 American Chemical Society’s Division of Education exam writing committee. “For a couple of decades someone from the Westminster College chemistry department has served on one of the American Chemical Society’s Division of Education exam writing committees,” Joseph said. “This year I have that privilege. I am on the committee charged with writing the 2007 full-year general chemistry standardized exam.”

Sherri Pataki, visiting assistant professor of psychology at Westminster, recently presented her research, “Communal Strength and Judgments of Altruism, Selfishness, and Guilt,” at the American Psychological Association Convention in Washington, D.C. “This research addresses the issue of human motivation and suggests that our actions are evaluated differently depending on our relationship to those we choose to help,” Pataki said. “We found that people are perceived more positively when they help people outside of their immediate circle of friends and family than when they help their own families or close friends. We also found that failure to provide help outside the context of one’s own close relationships has fewer negative repercussions, whereas failure to provide help within one’s own family and among close friends is viewed more negatively.”

Edward Cohen, associate professor of political science at Westminster, recently attended a meeting of the Working Group on Security Interests of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna. “I was an observer at this meeting,” Cohen said. “This group is putting together a legislative guide for countries interested in adopting a new law, or reforming an existing law, regarding the use of secured credit to finance business activity. It provides a good case study of how political and economic interests and legal conceptions shape the goals that countries pursue in the regulation of economic activity.” Cohen also recently presented his research, “The Diffusion of Legal Models for Financial Governance: The Case of Secured Finance,” at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) held in Budapest. “This conference, which takes place every two years, is the largest European-wide gathering of political scientists, and one of the most important global forums for the presentation and discussion of research in political science,” Cohen said. “My paper was an attempt to present my initial findings and interpretations of the attempts of UNCITRAL and other institutions to promote legal change around the globe in the area of commercial law.”

Keith Corso, instructor of speech communication at Westminster, presented “Lifestyle Changes to Help Build Effective Communication in Marriage,” at the Youngstown Diocese Ministry Convocation Saturday, Oct. 22, in the Kent State University Student Center. “I’ve been involved in mentoring engaged couples prior to their marriage for the past three years and have organized a number of weekend retreats as well as held individual couple sessions along with my wife,” Corso said. “The pur-
The fall semester was a busy one for students who wished to catch as many distinguished guest speakers as possible on campus. The College welcomed a host of experts who visited Westminster to share their insights. Among the list of guests: award-winning children’s author Patricia Polacco; Ann Wright, the former U.S. diplomat who resigned her post in protest of administration policies; Elaine Pagels, a well-known and academically distinguished Princeton University professor of religion; Kirsten Elstner, a freelance photographer whose work has appeared in the New York Times; and two alumni – David Nobs and Peggy Peterson, whose work near opposite coasts represent the peak in public relations.

Polacco, the author of more than 40 children’s books, has won more than 10 awards in a late-blossoming career that began at the age of 41. Her speech in the Witherspoon Rooms of McKelvey Campus Center Nov. 10 was sponsored by the Westminster College Department of Education and the Diversity Symposium. It was not only Polacco’s writing career that started late. Because she was dyslexic, the author didn’t learn to read until she was 14.

Ann Wright delivered a speech in the Campus Center Sept. 28 as part of the ongoing Peace Studies Program. Wright made headlines in March 2003 when she resigned from the U.S. foreign service while serving as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia. Her resignation letter spelled out her disagreement with the decision to go to war in Iraq, dissatisfaction with the handling of the Israel-Palestine and North Korea situations, as well as what she believed to be unnecessary curtailment of civil liberties domestically.

She began her foreign service career in 1987, and was on the first State Department team to go to Kabul, Afghanistan.


Pagels gained international acclaim for her best-selling book, The Gnostic Gospels, an analysis of 52 ancient manuscripts unearthed in Egypt in 1945. This work earned her the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Book Award. Pagels’ latest book, Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas, focuses on religious claims to possessing the ultimate “truth.”

Freelance photo-journalist Kirsten Elstner spoke in Phillips Lecture Hall Nov. 11, sponsored by the First-Year Program. Elstner, a former New York Times photographer who was the director of the 2004 National Geographic Photo Camp program and founder of Annapolis-based youth photography and writing program VisionWorkshops, showcased some of her work with young people and described her 1992 trip to Afghanistan.

Peggy Peterson, a 1980 Westminster graduate, spoke about her career in Washington Sept. 30 in Beeghly Theater.

Peterson is director of communications for Congressman Michael Oxley, the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. She worked with the Congress on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act following recent corporate accounting scandals, and coordinates the release of testimony by the Federal Reserve chairman to the public.

David Nobs, also a 1980 Westminster grad, returned to campus Sept. 20 to deliver a speech in Phillips Lecture Hall on how to succeed in public relations.

The managing director of Ruder Finn, Inc., Nobs is responsible for leading the growth and development of the Los Angeles office and managing the agency’s consumer, sports and entertainment marketing practice. He has demonstrated success with clients such as Coca-Cola, Bank of America, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Vans, Reebok, NHL, NASCAR, PGA of America, LPGA, and Turner Broadcasting.
Five Inducted into Hall of Fame

The Titans Sports Hall of Fame inducted five Westminster greats from the 1990s in ceremonies held on campus Oct. 8. The group: Andy Blatt ’97, Karey Kustron Gabrielli ’96, Beth Lehman ’96, Tim McNeil ’96, and Deanna Kaczynski Seruga ’97, was introduced at halftime of the Titan football game against Washington & Jefferson and officially inducted at a banquet following the game at McKelvey Campus Center.

One of the top running backs in Titan football history, Blatt finished his collegiate career with the second-highest yardage total in school history. His totals of 811 carries for 4,627 yards still rank third all-time at Westminster, while his career marks of 56 rushing touchdowns and 68 total touchdowns remain school records. A two-time NAIA All-American (1994, ’96), his top season came in 1994 when he rushed 313 times for a school-record 1,982 yards and 22 rushing touchdowns while leading the Blue & White to the NAIA Division II national championship. Blatt works as a systems analyst for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in Churchill. He and his wife, Valerie McCowan ’98, reside in Eighty-Four, with their son, Aiden (2).

One of only six players in the history of Westminster women’s basketball to surpass 1,000 career points (1,034), Gabrielli was a three-time all-conference/district selection for the Lady Titan cagers. She made an immediate impact as a freshman in 1992-93, earning all-district honorable mention and District Freshman of the Year laurels, while also setting the program’s single-game scoring record with a 40-point outing. Her 434 points as a freshman still stands as the school single-season scoring record. Gabrielli went on to earn All-KECC second-team honors in 1993-94, then was an All-KECC honorable mention pick in 1995-96. Gabrielli and her husband, John, reside in Menomonie Falls, Wis., with their two sons, Jack (2) and Luke (1).

A two-sport standout who earned a combined seven letters at Westminster (four in softball, three in tennis), Lehman led both programs to success in the mid-1990s. In tennis, she was a three-time all-district hon- oree who also captured the KECC doubles championship twice. She led the Lady Titan netters to the NAIA national tournament in 1993 and was an NAIA Scholar-Athlete in 1995. In softball, she earned three all-conference honors and was a two- time NAIA Scholar-Athlete while earning Team MVP honors and NAIA Regional All-Tournament laurels in 1996. Lehman resides in her hometown of Scottsdale, where she is a veterinarian.

Another two-sport standout, McNeil was one of the top wide receivers in the history of Titan football while also excelling as a hurdler for the Westminster track & field squad. In football, McNeil earned NAIA All-America honorable mention laurels while finishing his career with 129 receptions, which still ranks second overall at the College. He posted 1,849 yards receiving and 15 touchdowns in his career, while helping lead the Titans to the 1994 NAIA national championship. In track, he represented Westminster at the NAIA National Track & Field Championships. McNeil lives with his wife, Jennifer, in Warren, Ohio, where he serves as assistant principal at his alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School.

An All-American on the softball field and a 1,000-point scorer on the basketball court, Seruga excelled in both sports during her collegiate career. She earned NAIA All-America honorable mention honors as a sophomore in softball, helping lead the Lady Titans to the NAIA national tournament. In basketball, she was a three-time all-conference selection at point guard who finished her career with 1,148 points, which still ranks fourth all-time at Westminster. Seruga resides in Harrison City, where she works as a CPA. She and her husband, Doug, have two sons, Jacob (4) and Doug (1).

Former NAIA Rivals Geneva, St. Vincent Join Titans in PAC

Saint Vincent and Geneva, a pair of former Westminster rivals from the NAIA, have chosen to follow the path of the Titans and join NCAA Division III and the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC).

The members of the PAC Presidents’ Council voted unanimously to accept both schools in separate votes this summer. Saint Vincent was accepted on July 21, while Geneva’s application was approved on Sept. 26.

Saint Vincent recently completed an exploratory year as a member of NCAA Division III and will begin a four-year provisional membership in Division III in 2006-2007. Geneva, which is currently completing its exploratory year in Division III, would begin its provisional membership no earlier than 2007-2008. PAC schools will begin scheduling Saint Vincent in all sports beginning in 2006-07, with Geneva being added to their schedules the following year. By the 2011-2012 season, both schools will be eligible for conference championships.

With the addition of Thomas More College in April, the PAC has accepted three new members in 2005, bringing the total number of conference schools to nine.

Saint Vincent will field teams in 19 intercollegiate sports (nine men, 10 women), including football, which will debut in 2007-2008. Geneva fields 13 intercollegiate teams (six men, seven women).

The PAC, founded in 1955, crowns champions in 19 sports. In 2004-2005 it had 18 teams represent the conference in postseason play, including 12 in NCAA championship events. The conference is scheduled to receive automatic qualification status for NCAA championships beginning in 2007-2008.
Kerr Added to Men’s Hoops Staff

Westminster College hired Bob Kerr as a full-time assistant coach with the Titan men’s basketball and track & field programs. A native of New Castle, Kerr comes to Westminster after serving as head boys basketball coach and assistant athletic director/facilities director at Ellwood City Lincoln High School from 2001-04. Prior to that, he was an assistant boys basketball coach and assistant athletic director/facilities director at New Castle High School from 1994-2001.

A 1994 graduate of Slippery Rock University, Kerr also worked for the NFL’s Los Angeles Raiders from 1991-93.

“I am really excited, and I know I speak for a lot of our players who know him and have met him, to add Bob to our program staff,” said Titan head basketball coach Larry Ondako. “Bob has exactly what I look for in recruits, which is an intense love of basketball and an association with winning. From Slippery Rock to New Castle and his years as a head coach, he has certainly shown both qualities.”

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TITAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

Nominee ___________________________ Nominated by ________________

Address ___________________________ Address ___________________________

City ____________________ State ______ City __________________ State ______
Zip ____________ Phone __________ Zip ____________ Phone __________

Class year ________________________ Your class year __________________

No nominations may include athletes, coaches, or anyone else who has made outstanding contributions to varsity athletics at Westminster. Nominations may be made by Westminster alumni and current and former Titan coaches.

Athletes who are nominated must: 1) be a Westminster College graduate; 2) have been out of school a minimum of eight years; 3) have earned at least two letters in the same sport; and 4) receive nominations from at least two people. Non-athletes must also be nominated by at least two people. All nominations should include supporting documentation.

Justification (attach supporting data if necessary):

- Sport(s) – ____________________________________________________________
- Letters earned – ______________________________________________________
- Awards, honors, accomplishments, etc. – ________________________________

Deadline for nominations each year is March 1. Nominees not selected remain on the ballot for one additional year.

Please send nominations to Director of Athletics, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001.
Three Honored with Alumni Citations

Westminster handed out Alumni Citations to David Orr ’65 and Jack Ridl ’67 and presented the Outstanding Young Alumni Award to Helen Boylan-Funari ’95 at the Citation Celebration Reception and Dinner on Sept. 23.

Orr, a 1965 Westminster graduate, is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College and is also a James March Professor at Large at the University of Vermont. In addition to publishing 150 articles in scientific journals, social studies publications, and popular magazines, Orr has published five books. He is the founder of the Meadowbrook Project in Fox, Ark., which is a model sustainable, environmentally sound community. Orr also raised funds and spearheaded the design and building of $7.2 million Environmental Studies Center at Oberlin College, a building that produces no waste and supplies its own energy.

Ridl earned his English degree from Westminster and a master’s in education in 1970. He is currently a professor of English at Hope College, where he teaches literature and creative writing. He has written four books of poetry and is recognized as a significant contemporary American poet. Over 300 of his poems have been published in more than 60 literary magazines and a dozen anthologies. Ridl has been nominated seven times for the Pushcart Prizes, which is an Oscar-like award for poetry and stories. In 1996 he received the Distinguished Teaching Award, Professor of the Year, for Michigan by the Carnegie Foundation. In 1988 he received the Creative Artist Award from the Michigan Council, and was named one of eight “New Voices in Michigan Poetry” in 1984.

Boylan-Funari is a summa cum laude Westminster graduate with a degree in environmental science and minors in chemistry, mathematics, and physics. In addition to her teaching duties, Boylan-Funari directs an undergraduate research program in the area of microwave enhanced chemistry. She is recognized for significant contributions in environmentally related chemical research in developing new methods of determining mercury in smokestack emissions.

Distinguished Lecturers

Three Westminster alumni invited to share their expertise with students and faculty during Homecoming weekend were honored at the Distinguished Alumni Lecturers Luncheon. The lecturers for 2005 were (left to right): John Shaffer ’77, executive deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; best-selling mystery novelist Nancy Aikman Martin ’75; and David Carothers ’75, professor of mathematics and head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at James Madison University.

Triennial Alumni Weekend: The Ties that Bind Us to Westminster

Memories, traditions, friendships – all are part of our connection to alma mater. All alumni are invited to return to campus for Triennial Alumni Weekend 2006. Renew your ties to Westminster and enjoy a refreshing weekend away. Weekend highlights include:

- Decade Gatherings & Sundae Social
- Saturday Seminars
- Saturday on the Green . . . Classic Cars & More!
- The “Main” Event & Splendor Under the Stars
- Sunday Worship Service and Brunch

We look forward to welcoming you to campus!

Carolyn Waszczak Adams ’69, chair  
C.J. Bens ’87  
Debbie Berlin Boyle ’86  
Todd Cole ’83  
Barbara Braden Guffey ’70  
Iris Galimberti Libertiore ’87  
Mary Louise Ireland ’45  
Cy Wetherill King ’69  
Roberta Laird ’76  
Eleanore Burns Morris ’71  
Dorothy Pollock ’46  
Kevin Powers ’86

A full weekend schedule and registration form will be published in the next Westminster Magazine and on the Westminster Web site. Separate registration forms will not be mailed.
August 5, Pittsburgh

One hundred Pittsburgh-area alumni enjoyed a fun summer evening as they gathered pre-game at Hi-topps before the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game at PNC Park. After the game, our group enjoyed Skyblast 2005 which was a fireworks and laser show extravaganza! Thanks to the Pittsburgh Regional Alumni Committee for planning this great alumni outing! Committee members: Jim Giel ‘74, Barbara Braden Guffey ‘70, Bill Lucas ‘99, Rich McKenna ‘84, Leanne Onorato ‘98, Phil Petraglia ‘83, Melissa Rea ‘99, Seth Rice ‘01, Becky Rickard ‘98, Melissa Rueflé ‘98, and Melissa Wiley ‘00.

August 27, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Akron-Canton, Cleveland and Youngstown alumni and guests gathered for a special evening at the summer Blossom Music Festival. Our group shared dinner and then enjoyed a concert of “Bernstein’s America” music. Special thanks to Keith McCauley ’68 and Hidge Stockhausen Claire ’49 and Chet Claire ’49 for hosting this great evening.

September 23-25, Westminster Campus

2005 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Thank you to all our alumni who returned to campus for Homecoming festivities and enjoyed reunion gatherings!

It’s been a busy fall for Regional Connections! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to meet with regional alumni volunteers throughout the country. Please write me or call me if you are interested in making connections for Westminster in your area. I’d love to hear from you.

Cindy Dafler ’03 has been a member of the Westminster College staff since 1991. As coordinator of advancement events, Cindy is responsible for coordinating and implementing all events and activities associated with advancement programs – including regional alumni events.

For information about an upcoming regional event or if you are interested in hosting an event in your area, contact Cindy at 724-946-7373 or daflercs@westminster.edu.

Upcoming Alumni Events:

**January**
- 5-11 Concert Choir Northeast Tour
  - 5 Harrisburg, PA
  - 6 Wallingford, PA
  - 7 Morristown, NJ
  - 8 New York City
  - 10 Wilmington, DE
  - 11 Baltimore, MD

**May**
- 6 Lawrence-Mercer-Youngstown “For Ladies Only Tea”

**Spring 2006**
- TBA Akron-Canton-Cleveland Cleveland Indians baseball game

**June**
- 11 Akron-Canton-Cleveland, Lawrence-Mercer-Youngstown: Tour and alumni gathering at Stan Hywet, Akron, OH
Westminster Celebrates Rededication of Old Main

College unveils $3 million renovation to signature building

Old Main Memorial, Westminster’s landmark building, has a new lease on life. The 76-year-old building, the academic, administrative, symbolic and spiritual heart of the College, was rededicated Sept. 23 after a yearlong renovation.

The current Old Main, the third such building on this site, was completed in 1929. Renovations included an upgrade of the outdated electric system to meet current standards and accommodate greater future use; installation of air-conditioning; accessibility improvements, including the installation of an elevator; and refurbishments of the departments of Education and Economics & Business, along with other public areas. The exterior of the building retained its classic look.

The ceremony celebrating its renewal was held on Senior Terrace during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend with George Berlin, chair of the Board of Trustees, presiding.

President R. Thomas Williamson provided opening remarks, followed by historic reflections from H. Dewey DeWitt, curator of the College archives. Retired professor of accounting Ron Bergey, for whom a classroom in the building was named, provided his reflections on the building as well. Richard Barnhart ’55 offered a prayer of rededication.

Following the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the building and a reception was held in the Tower Room.

A look inside the renovated Old Main Memorial, rededicated Sept. 23 (clockwise from top): The newly established Robert E. Lauterbach Center in the economics & business department; a refurbished second-floor classroom; a conference room and Dean Mann’s office in the academic affairs suite.
Top left, retired accounting professor Ron Bergey addresses the crowd at the Old Main rededication. At left, a welcoming waiting area in the relocated business office. Bottom left, new signage is conveniently located near the building entrances to help direct visitors.

The Wiley Alumni House, located just south of Eichenauer Hall on South Market St., was the newest building added to Westminster College with its official dedication celebration Oct. 14.

The 19th century home acquired by the College provides a warm and welcoming starting point for alumni visiting campus. The totally restored structure features over 2,400 square feet, and houses the Office of Alumni Relations.

Wiley House Added to Campus Community

New office for alumni relations; official dedication held Oct. 14

The Wiley Alumni House, located just south of Eichenauer Hall on South Market St., was the newest building added to Westminster College with its official dedication celebration Oct. 14.

The 19th century home acquired by the College provides a warm and welcoming starting point for alumni visiting campus. The totally restored structure features over 2,400 square feet, and houses the Office of Alumni Relations.

The newest office structure is named in honor of S. Donald Wiley ’50 and his wife Josephine Hartman Wiley ’49 for their leadership and dedication to Westminster College.
Homecoming 2005

Westminster College served up a helping of nostalgia as alumni and friends returned to campus Sept. 23-25 for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Not only did the College rededicate its signature building, Old Main Memorial, but for many, their plate included a reunion or two. The Classes of 1955 and 1980 held their 50th and 25th reunions, respectively, while the Classes of 1950, 1945 and 1940 and the 10th cluster (1994-96) held reunion luncheons. The 30th (1974-76) and 45th (1959-61) clusters held reunion dinners. In addition, reunions of the 1994 national championship football team and WWNW TV and radio alumni were also held. Other activities for alumni included the annual Homecoming parade (this year’s theme was “Game Shows”), an all-alumni picnic, a Westminster artifacts exhibition, several College sporting events (including Titan football, soccer and tennis), an all-alumni open house at the home of Tom and Jean Williamson, and community worship services.

Student Alumni Association volunteers drove golf carts to help folks get to various Homecoming festivities.▼

Former football stars (l-r) Gary Devlin, Gary Weinstein, Dave Nobs and Frank Rondinelli reminisce with significant others at the Class of 1980 reunion held at Grove City Country Club. All four were members of Westminster’s 1976 and 1977 NAIA Division II national championship teams.

Alumni check out the latest in Westminster gear at the College Bookstore & Gift Shop in McKelvey Campus Center.▼

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2006
October 20, 21 & 22

5th Cluster Reunion, Classes of 2000, ’01 & ’02
20th Cluster Reunion, Classes of 1985, ’86 & ’87
25th Reunion, Class of 1981
40th Cluster Reunion, Classes of 1965, ’66 & ’67
50th Reunion, Class of 1956

Contact classmates and friends now to begin plans to meet on campus next fall. Looking for their e-mail address? Try the online Alumni Directory; be sure to add your listing.

www.westminster.edu/alumni/directory/search.cfm

Would you like to help plan your reunion? Contact the alumni office, (724) 946-7362 or alumni@westminster.edu.
Alpha Gamma Delta featured a real-life “Survivor”-themed float. At right, “Survivor: All-Star” winner Amber Brkich ’00.

President R. Thomas Williamson (below) gets ready to toss some candy to parade onlookers. ▼

Sigma Kappa’s take on “The Price is Right.” ▼
The Westminster Marching Band performed prior to the football game and during the halftime intermission.

Not all of the football action took place between the lines. This future Titan gets some practice in beyond the north end zone of Burry Stadium.

Homecoming Queen & King, Tiffany Smith and Lee Scott. Smith, the Zeta Tau Alpha candidate, is a junior molecular biology major and graduate of Neshannock High School; Scott, the Theta Chi candidate, is a junior history major and a Knox High School grad.

Ken Romig, a 1985 Westminster graduate and the College’s vice president for finance management services, totes son Nathan through the Burry Stadium crowd.

Teal Kawana and the Titan cheerleaders did their best to support Westminster in its 17-3 loss to Thomas More College.
Keeping the Faith

It's not uncommon to see a full house in Wallace Memorial Chapel for Westminster Chapel or Vesper services.

Spiritual life alive and well at Westminster

By Patrick S. Broadwater

He has counseled them, ministered to them, and stood beside them on the sideline during their toughest losses and biggest victories. But Jim Mohr didn't really know what effect he'd had on the members of the Westminster College football team until a Saturday morning late in the season. On that day an injured Titans player hosting a recruit brought the prospective student-athlete over to meet Mohr.

"Let me introduce you to these folks...This is Rev. Jim, the College chaplain and the team chaplain, too. He's a cool guy, you'll like him."

Even though Mohr was heading to a funeral, it turned out to be a pretty good day.

"If that's how he looks at me, then we've made it," said Mohr, who completed his first season as official chaplain for the Titan football team and is beginning his third year as College chaplain. “That's what we're looking for – how to connect with guys on that level.”
“When they see me on campus, every last one of them says hello,” Mohr said. “That is really what I think we’re about on campus. We don’t have to be loud, we don’t have to be obnoxious, but we have to be there. We have to be present.”

Mohr started the ball rolling by reaching out to new head football coach Jeff Hand last spring. He sent an e-mail welcoming Hand aboard and offering the support of the chaplain’s office in any way the new coach might envision. It turned out that Hand, who had employed a team chaplain in his two previous head coaching jobs, had a greater vision initially than Mohr did.

“Jeff and I got together and started talking and he said, ‘Here’s the idea I have.’ It was more than what I had in mind, but we decided to go forward and see where it takes us,” Mohr said. “I think it’s been a great addition. It allows us to have 50 or 100 guys on a Saturday morning in the chapel before every football game.”

“We’re a Presbyterian institution and I like to have a Presbyterian influence on the sideline,” said Hand. “My biggest thing is trying to get our guys to feel comfortable around the chaplain, to get them more and more integrated in other things, other Christian activities on campus.”

Before games, Mohr will meet with the team and coaches in Wallace Memorial Chapel, sometimes bringing in a guest speaker to address the players. By making access to the chaplain and his staff as easy as possible, a trickle effect has already begun. Players who had not been active in campus ministry have begun to show up at Vespers, or attend meetings of religious life groups, such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

“We’re trying to develop the whole person here,” Hand said. “Athletic growth and academic growth are the two areas we hit the most, but we try to develop them in all facets of their life – emotionally, socially, and spiritually, too.”

Mohr’s role with the football team is telling, though not unique to only that team, group or organization. Mohr and chaplain’s assistant Keturah Laney have made inroads with other groups as well, a testament to the philosophy Mohr brought to the job after serving as an ordained Presbyterian minister for 20 years. He most recently served as minister of Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Butler for nearly 10 years.

But, it also illustrates the religiosity of the Westminster campus of the 21st century.

National trends show that more than three-quarters of college freshmen report an interest in spirituality, but that the religious practices of those students are changing. Despite a perception that today’s generation of college students is me-centric and that the technology of ipods, cell phones, computers and video games has isolated it from the greater world, young adults nationwide are still searching for “the meaning of life.” However, fewer are doing it through traditional religious practice.

**Religion vs. Spirituality**

A study of over 112,000 freshmen at 236 colleges and universities conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles and released last April, found that eight in 10 students say they attend religious services, believe in God, and care about spirituality. More than two-thirds pray. About three-fourths of all respondents report they are searching for meaning in life and discuss life philosophies with friends. Sixty-four percent said their spirituality was a source of personal joy.

But the survey also suggested that while spirituality is increasing, affiliation with mainstream religions is declining. A separate study of 1,385 18-25-year-olds released by Reboot, a Jewish group studying generational issues, and several collaborating organizations, highlighted the degree to which students are venturing outside the formal religious experience in their spiritual journeys. While 44 percent of respondents called themselves “religious,” another 35 percent said they were “spiritual, but not religious.” And 18 percent said they are neither.

“I think religion for them has a connotation of being involved in a church,” Mohr said. “Spiritual is more the need to discover God’s presence in things, not necessarily in a formalized religious experience.”

Although spirituality can be defined in many ways, the approach of looking for spiritual guidance outside the traditional church experience is not new, as documented by previous HERI studies that showed students’ participation in formal religion declined during their college years.

“For some people, it’s something you do ‘at home,’” Mohr said. “They sometimes take a sabbatical from church, but not a sabbatical from spirituality.”

The continued quest for meaning also sometimes leads students to explore their spirituality in more private ways, culling kernels of truth from denominations of all stripes.

The findings of those studies appear to be in line with the current Westminster campus. According to undergraduate statistical information for the fall 2005 semester, 79 percent of Westminster students align themselves with a particular religion, with the greatest numbers classifying themselves as Catholic (29%) and Presbyterian (21%).
From religious services to student faith-based organizations, work trips to scholarships, even participation in varsity sports, spirituality is a large part of the Westminster experience.

“I think spiritual life has grown exponentially,” said Brian Campbell, a senior religion/broadcasting major who hosts “The Covenant,” a Christian radio show on the College station, WWNW. “I think the campus has taken a big step toward becoming more religious as a whole. The numbers at Seekers, the numbers at Vespers and Chapel... It’s a good trend.”

Campbell, a member of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City, says that he usually attends Vespers on Sunday evening, but still occasionally goes home for special services. But, in addition to his radio show, he is also involved in many other ministry activities. He is a member of chapel staff, attends FCA and Seekers meetings, and has led freshman Bible study the last two years in Russell Hall.

“In high school, I didn’t want to become a religion major. I wasn’t as interested as I am now. Once I started going to Vespers, I’ve really gotten more and more involved here and less involved at my home church because there’s more opportunity to serve here,” Campbell said. “The change in me really happened in college.”

That’s not surprising considering Westminster’s church-related history. It was 1946 before a layman held the office of president; 1969 before compulsory daily Chapel became voluntary.

Now, students are free to choose from a wide variety of choices, what could be referred to as an a la carte approach to spirituality. There’s twice-weekly Chapel services; Vespers on Sunday evenings; Catholic Mass on Saturdays; and a newly instituted time for quiet reflection set aside in an otherwise busy chapel every Wednesday afternoon. For those seeking a formal religious service, students have the opportunity to visit local churches on Sunday mornings. In addition, there are at least half a dozen student organizations (such as Seekers, FCA, Newman Club, Gospel Choir, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) which help students serve, strengthen (or question) their beliefs, or just share their thoughts with peers.

“I think the basic tenet, the College’s mission to provide spiritual life opportunities for students on this campus, I don’t think that’s changed,” said Carey Anne Meyer LaSor ’86, coordinator of the College’s Young Presbyterian Scholars (YPS) program.

“The choices students make in college set patterns for a lot of their life,” LaSor said. “No one is going to wake them up on Sunday morning anymore, like Mom and Dad used to. I appreciate the College’s emphasis – This is here, it should be part of your life. We can’t tell you to do that, but we want you to. We want you to incorporate this as part of your life.”

A PLAN OF ATTACK

When Mohr arrived on campus in November of 2003 he embarked on a yearlong listening tour. Rather than jumping in and barking orders to do things this way or that, he sat back and observed, getting a vision of what was going on spiritually. He wanted to know what was being done well, what was missing, and what could be tweaked in order to make things better.

“One of the first observations I made was that there were a lot of groups on campus doing ministry. If I were to draw a circle, a lot of the ministry was being done out on the fringe. People were doing their own thing and we were constantly running into problems where people were running into each other. This thing was scheduled when this other thing was scheduled, etc.”

So Mohr set out to create ministry leadership teams. He organized student leaders from all the organizations and small groups and they meet three times per year to plan for each semester’s events and evaluate previous work. With the help of his chapel staff, the summit program was established, giving 15 volunteers a chance to help plan campus-wide ministry events. This past summer, Mohr took a similar tack with some faculty and staff. He created a campus ministry team consisting of the YPS coordinator, the Chapel office staff, Gospel Choir director and all of the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) workers.

“The most important thing is to get people together and get them all on the same page,” Mohr said. “We all have the same vision, we’re all trying to do the same things, we should be able to work together and get to the same place. By pulling all the ministries together, we now have the ability to be in touch with people out there doing their own thing. And groups are really responding to that. We’re not a clearinghouse, but we’re a place you can come and get support.”

“Jim really brought this whole new attitude with him,” said Campbell. “I’ve noticed that there are always things to do. He’s always coming up with new ideas, always having ways for people to be involved. He’ll ask anyone to come be liturgist at
Demographic shift occurring in study of religion

Westminster offers two religion-based majors within its Department of Religion, History, Philosophy, and Classics: religion and Christian education. Although the number of students pursuing those majors has remained essentially flat over the last 20 years, an important demographic shift has occurred.

The number of women studying religion as a percentage of the total number of religion students is up sharply. According to current statistics provided by the department, six of the seven religion majors and two of the three minors in religion are female.

“It used to be that religion was 90 percent male, but now it’s almost 90 percent female,” said chair of the department, A. Dwight Castro. “That’s a major shift. Whether this is a temporary or a permanent shift remains to be seen.”

The religion major at Westminster contains two programs of study: the Christian tradition program or the history and philosophy of religion program. The Christian tradition track focuses on the study of the Bible and development and expression of Christian theology; the history and philosophy track focuses on the study of religion as a phenomenon of human existence and culture.

The Christian education major explores the spiritual development of children, youths, and adults and examines the theory and practice of learning experiences related to such growth.

Thirty years ago in 1975, Westminster graduated 10 students who majored in religion, seven of whom were males. As recently as 1995, all five religion majors were male. But by 2000, there were five religion majors – all female. Last year’s graduating class had four religion majors, evenly split between male and female.

Aside from gender, another change has occurred in the number of students pursuing religion as a major. Coinciding with national trends of pre-ministerial study, fewer Westminster students are choosing the academic study of religion.

“There never used to be any women in those majors,” Castro said. “Fewer 22-year-olds are going to seminary.”

“It’s part of a national trend. Fewer young people are thinking about going into church-related careers immediately after graduation.”

The Christian education major at Westminster, however, remains strong. The major graduated four seniors in 2005 and projects to graduate five more in 2006. By comparison, the major graduated 3-6 majors each year from 1977-84. In total there are 14 students currently pursuing the Christian education major.

Christian education has been traditionally populated with more females than males (10 of the current Christian ed majors are females). The big change in that discipline is instead the availability of a minor, which was begun this year. Already three students are enrolled.

“The unknown factor is the extent to which the number of minors may grow, now that the option exists,” Castro said.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

With organization and involvement comes the opportunity to effect some real change. Westminster’s response to the hurricanes that devastated parts of the Gulf Coast and Florida earlier this year emanated from all corners of the campus (see page 22). But the chapel office was, and remains, out front.

When displaced Tulane University student Nick Manno enrolled at Westminster, Mohr was there to help him move in, bringing along a bin with some bed linens and a pillow, standard items provided for international students. That afternoon in a chapel staff meeting, Mohr asked the group to close their eyes and imagine walking in the front door of their homes and recalling all the things in each room of their home, including the stuff shoved underneath the beds. Imagine now, he said, that it is all gone.

“Nick needed everything but basically the clothes on his back,” Mohr said.

Based on that experience, the chapel staff is now focusing on providing more assistance to foreign students who come with little or nothing. A few weeks ago there was a pile of winter coats donated by students on the floor in Mohr’s office. Thokozani Mbewe, a student from Malawi, had never been around winter and needed a coat. He chose the Pittsburgh Steelers jacket.

Up next, a group of Westminster students and staff are planning to travel to the Gulf Coast over spring break to help repair the region. That trip will build on last year’s debut mission work trip, when a group of 14 students traveled to Long Island in the Bahamas to remodel a youth center. Mohr has a background in participating in such service trips, but increasingly, so do the students who come to Westminster as freshmen.

“We’ve had Habitat for years here, but what I quickly realized talking with first-year students, was when I asked if any of them have served on work trips, a lot of hands went up,” Mohr said. “Some had been to Pittsburgh, or New York City. Some said Zaire or Turkey. I love to do that kind of thing, so let’s offer that.”

Besides the charitable work that those trips provide, the experience out of the Westminster bubble – whether in the U.S. or abroad – will undoubtedly add to the growing liberalization and globalization of spiritual life on campus.

“Most students who study overseas and come back to campus have a different perspective on life,” LaSor said. “More students have traveled before they even come to campus. It’s just a more accessible globe. Social awareness is now a part of student life.”
**YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARS**

Born out of the College’s Sesquicentennial celebration and a re-examination of what it means to be a church-related college in the 21st century, the Young Presbyterian Scholars program offers up to 100 four-year $44,000 scholarships each year to deserving students from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations. Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA and be recommended by their pastor in the fall. This early-decision program gives qualified YPS students a special opportunity to attend Westminster.

“Most schools that are church-related nowadays it seems are trying to downplay that relatedness. And here we were asking a completely different question: How can we focus on that?” LaSor said. “[President] Tom Williamson, being the son of a Presbyterian minister, was particularly interested in making that relationship more visible.”

In just its third year, the program is a rare win-win-win situation for all involved. The students lock in their place in the freshman class at a church-related college steeped in their religious heritage, with the help of a significant scholarship.

The College benefits by securing early on students who value the high quality education offered in this church-related environment. When the YPS and Jerb Miller scholarships (where up to 100 alumni educators can nominate students for four-year, $40,000 scholarships) are fully implemented, about half of the incoming class will be determined in the early-decision period. In addition, the YPS program, available to Presbyterian congregations worldwide, widens the traditional recruiting area in a targeted fashion that allows the College to get its name and message directly to those who would have the most interest.

And for the nominating pastors, their congregation benefits from having a reliable college and community to which it feels comfortable sending its young men and women. Those students then may return with a quality education and use their talents within the nominating congregation or the church and community at large.

“We’ve had quite a few repeat nominators from within, but also outside, our traditional recruiting corridor,” LaSor said. “That’s what we wanted to see. Even thousands of miles from here, they’re looking to offer their students in their congregations an opportunity to go to a Presbyterian-related school and be part of this kind of program.”

As of press time, Westminster has received 145 nominations from 28 different states and a foreign country. In its first two years, the program has attracted nearly 80 students to Westminster.

“I think a lot of it had to do with the good experience they had being introduced to the College because of the YPS program,” LaSor said. With their background as a person and their church involvement, they were able to see on this campus something they could fit right into.

“We have a goal of keeping students involved in the church at large, so there is not a gap between when they leave high school and mom and dad’s wings and the church’s wing and when they get out into what people call the real world at the end of college. We want to close that gap and make it a continuum rather than an open space where there’s nothing going on,” LaSor said.

“This is just an enhancement of what they’re already doing. They don’t have to wait until they’re old enough to be involved in the leadership of their denomination or their church at home. They are the leaders of the church and it’s not the church of tomorrow. It’s their church; today.”

(Broadwater is editor of Westminster Magazine.)
New Wilmington Missionary Conference Celebrates 100 Years

Composite photo by Jeff Behm • Studio B Productions
Over 180 mission workers commissioned for service at annual gathering

Yvette Crocker (“just like Betty, only I don’t cook as well”) is attending her first New Wilmington Missionary Conference, but it won’t be her last. She and her friend, Janet Noble-Richardson ’83, were part of a group of six adults and ten youths from St. Timothy Presbyterian Church in Livonia, Mich. As they sat over their morning coffee, Yvette asked Janet if it was too early to register for next year.

Hundreds of Presbyterians like Yvette and Janet gathered on the Westminster campus July 23-29 for the 100th New Wilmington Missionary Conference. Over 180 new Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission workers and young adult volunteers were commissioned for service in countries ranging from Guatemala and Turkey to Sudan and Pakistan.

Yvette’s reasons for attending were two-fold: An interest in missions has taken her on two mission trips to Turkey, where she worked at St. Paul Cultural Center, a coffee shop/outreach program that ministers to those with unmet needs; the second was Janet’s enthusiastic relating of her experiences as a 30-year veteran of the conference. As Yvette put it, “There was no arm-twisting! I couldn’t wait to come!”

Janet’s parents were missionaries to Pakistan, where Janet was born and raised. Her first trip to New Wilmington was as a very small child, but it made quite an impression: “The conference is the reason I came to Westminster as a student.”

When asked about the reaction of the youths in their group, both women looked at each other and laughed: “We haven’t seen them!” That sentiment would be echoed by several other adults, including Kitch Shatzer, a pastor from Brighton, Iowa, and Arnel Baughman of Washington, Iowa. They didn’t feel they could speak for the younger members of their group because, “We never see them!” Their delegation from Washington United Presbyterian Church included five adults and five young people.

One of the elusive youths was Katie Swanson of Mercer, who has been coming to the conference for four years. A member of First Presbyterian Church of Sharpsville, she also attends Bethany Presbyterian in Mercer. Her reasons for spending a week on campus were very straightforward: “It’s really fun and all my friends come.” Her favorite part is “the fellowship. There’s a sense of community here.” The recent high school graduate is headed to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., to major in elementary education with a minor in missions.

– Sandi Chandler
TITANS HELPING OTHERS

When it comes to aiding those in need, Westminster students and alumni have never been shy to lend a hand. In the aftermath of hurricanes that rumbled through the South this year, that has meant both opening their own homes, as well as building new ones.

Westminster welcomed with open arms freshman Nick Manno, a New Orleans native who was enrolled at Tulane University before Hurricane Katrina struck. Because of flooding, Manno was stranded for three days at Tulane Medical School where his father was employed. He was evacuated by helicopter and made his way up to Girard, Ohio, to stay with family. While there, a cousin mentioned hearing of Westminster’s offer of free tuition, room and board, and books for students displaced by Katrina.

“I’m used to schools that were like small cities, but I like this small-school atmosphere,” said Manno. “The people here were nice and friendly, so I chose to stay at Westminster.”

Since his arrival, students have taken up a collection of everyday items, including clothing and food, to help Manno get by, and The Jacqueline House Bed & Breakfast held a fund-raiser for the entire Manno family.

Many other fund-raisers have been held on campus for Katrina victims, with proceeds divided between the American Red Cross and the Presbyterian Disaster Service. Among the efforts: Titan Radio’s live remotes as it attempted to raise $890; collections at Titan football games; fraternity and sorority fund-raisers; and a campus-wide penny war. Campus fund-raising activities are continuing.

For those wanting a more hands-on experience, a mission work trip to the Gulf Coast is being organized for spring break 2006, while new plans are being made for a house to be built on the Westminster campus to be shipped to a hurricane-ravaged community. A national Habitat for Humanity “House-in-a-box” project for the Westminster campus was recently scrapped, but campus chapter officials indicated that they still intend to build a house which can be transplanted to the Gulf Coast in sections and reassembled when the damaged communities are ready to rebuild.

AND ABROAD

Pride spurs mission work in Dominican Republic

Since 1996, Douglas Pride, pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Clearfield, in cooperation with the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, has led annual mission trips to Sabaneta de Yasia, Dominican Republic. The group works with the Dominican church members in the areas of construction, education and medicine.

Last spring, the group included over a dozen volunteers with some association with Westminster – current students, graduates, employees, and their spouses and children. They are pictured at right.

Front row: Doug Pride, Jenny Pride and Katie Pride; Don Willson; Henry Reed; Margaret Cuff; Mollie McMillan; Margaret and David Trautman; Sami Settlehire; Back row: Sam Farmerie; Jack Reed; Bill Miller; Jim Maloney; and Ruth Ann and John Mansell.
The Merry Mission to Malawi

Dan and Beth Merry and their two children spend a year in Africa

By Beth Brown Merry '76

Dan and I met in Dr. Hopkins’ New Testament Class in Old Main, and that probably set the tone of our lives together. However, we never could have imagined the adventure that God had planned for us when we went to Africa for a year as missionaries from August 2004 until July 2005.

Dan is the associate pastor for Pittsburgh Presbytery and had visited Malawi several times before we went. Our daughters, Heather (who was 17) and Brooke (14) and I had never been and had no idea what to expect. As we tried to pack everything we would need for a year into 10 boxes and suitcases, I worried about what size sheets to bring for our beds, and how many pots and pans to pack. Once I got to Africa, I realized that there were much bigger things to worry about.

Malawi is about the size of Pennsylvania and has a similar population, 12 million people. It is landlocked, and 60 percent of the price of all goods is due to transportation costs. As a result, a cake mix cost $7, and a tiny wedge of parmesan cheese was $20. The unemployment rate in Malawi is 85 percent. Most people survive on subsistence farming, and while we were there the rains, which usually continue until March, stopped in January. The drought caused the crops to fail, and famine followed. There are currently 4.6 million people experiencing famine in Malawi.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is destroying the fabric of society. An entire generation (20-40 year-olds) is being decimated. This leaves grandparents or teenagers to provide for the children who are orphaned. There are over a million of them. Diseases such as TB, cholera and malaria also kill thousands each year.

On top of that, the infrastructure of the country is falling apart or nonexistent. Roads are mostly dirt and filled with ruts and huge potholes. Less than 9 percent of Malawians have electricity. Only 7 percent have clean running water in their homes. Some of the schools lack toilets or roofs. All are short on textbooks, desks and teachers.

We wondered what one family from Pennsylvania could possibly do. We went as part of a partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, so Dan worked closely with Synod administrators and pastors. Each week we would travel from our home in the city of Blantyre out into the bush to visit churches. The girls had a hard time getting used to the living conditions. Our home was fenced, our windows and doors barred, and the Synod provided guards at night. Despite this, we were robbed several times. We had also had two fires in our home. We do not speak Chichewa, although the girls quickly picked some up from our neighbors and their friends at the International High School they attended. However, we were taught the true meaning of hospitality when Malawians welcomed us into their homes and churches and gave us the best that they had. Their generosity in meager times was amazing.

We attended one Harvest Service, similar to our Thanksgiving, at a bush church. The people there knew that the crops had failed and that famine was approaching, but they gave the best that they had, their first fruits, to the church. They literally danced down the aisle of the sanctuary as they presented their gifts to God. They knew that their own children would need those fruits and vegetables, but they gave them to the church to distribute to the destitute. I had never seen such truly sacrificial giving.

Throughout our year in Malawi, our Westminster “family” supported us. Classmates contributed to the “Merry Mission to Malawi” fund, so that we could go. My mother and father’s (Marge and Duff Brown ’50) fraternity and sorority pals sent us birthday greetings and Christmas cards. Other alumni sent care packages, and my lab partner sent us replacement CDs when Heather’s were stolen. We also knew that they were all praying for us.

Now that we are home, people ask us, “How have you changed?” It’s a hard question to answer. We don’t take anything for granted anymore – food, shelter, electricity, water. But I think that our daughters have demonstrated our transformation the best. Brooke grew about six inches while we were in Africa, so shortly after we got home, I said, “Brooke, it’s time to go shopping to get you some new school clothes.” She said, “Mom, I don’t need any. I have two pairs of jeans and two pairs of shorts, I am fine.”

A few weeks later, Heather remarked to Dan, “Dad, some of my friends have changed while we were in Malawi. They seem much more materialistic now.” He looked her straight in the eyes and said, “Heather, do you think that maybe it is you who have changed?” She smiled sheepishly and nodded.

(Beth Brown Merry ’76 is an instructor in the communication and English departments at Waynesburg College; Daniel Merry ’77 is associate pastor for Pittsburgh Presbytery. They live in Bethel Park with daughters Brooke and Heather.)
Carol Haney Watson ’79 poses with many of her new friends at the Domasi Government School in Malawi. While a doctoral student at Virginia Tech, Watson spent five weeks in the African country helping to establish an elementary teacher program.

Carol Haney Watson ’79

Muli bwangi (Hello! How are you?) to all of my fellow WC alumni! I would like to share with you one of the most amazing and unique experiences of my life. In the summer of 2004, I traveled along with 10 other educators to the country of Malawi in Africa to work with the students and teachers at the Domasi Government School. I was in Malawi for five weeks, during which I enjoyed the hospitality of the Malawian people and absorbed the rich culture of this unique country known as “The Warm Heart of Africa.”

I spent much of my time working with and learning from the students and teachers at Domasi Government Primary School. Virginia Tech, where I was then a doctoral student, is conducting an ongoing multi-grant project to try to establish an elementary teacher education program in Malawi. At present, teachers there have little to no training past the high school level. Average class size is between 70 and 100 students to each teacher. A typical primary school in Malawi operates without textbooks, story books, paper, pencils, desks, chairs, or resources of any kind. Despite these difficulties, children walk for miles to attend school every day – to grab the opportunity to learn – to get an education. Free public school in Malawi has only existed for about 10 years.

Another dimension of this trip for me was the fact that for the previous two years, I have been facilitating a pen-pal exchange project in which students in grades 3-8 have been communicating with each other as paired partners. Since most of the Malawian children are too impoverished to have access to writing materials and postage, letters have been hand-carried back and forth by several professors from Virginia Tech between the Domasi Government School in Zomba, Malawi, and Falling Spring Elementary School in Covington, Va. Both areas are relatively rural and isolated, offering students little exposure to cultures and lifestyles different from their own. Pen-pals sent each other drawings, coins, candy, and photographs. They shared and compared information about their families, pets, favorite foods, religion, sports, weather/seasons, and friends. Pen-pals from both countries expressed caring, support, and empathy toward their partners on the other side of the world. The desire to make a connection far outweighed any minor difficulties between languages or cultures.

Both Americans and Malawians, adults and children, gained a wealth of knowledge from this experience. We learned to converse in Chichewa, while they learned to say “Cool!” and “Awesome!”. We learned traditional tribal dancing while they learned how to do Appalachian “clogging.” We learned to eat chamboshi, nsima, and nquani while they learned what pizza and hot dogs are. We learned to chew on poles of sugar cane while they tried chocolate bars.

I learned (or was reminded of) a lot of valuable things myself through the simplistic wisdom of my good friends in Malawi:

- Shoes are not always necessary, and are often a hindrance.
- An education is a rare and precious gift.
- ALL colorful, patterned clothes match.
- Tight time schedules are highly overrated.
- Baboons galloping across the roof make a very effective daily alarm clock.
- Poverty is relative and, in many cases, only a perception.
- A child’s smile and a friend’s hug are the most valuable gifts.
- Disease is an indescribably horrible thing.
- You don’t need a lot of “stuff” to be an effective teacher.
- People are the most important thing there is.

(305x345)

These Malawian students are sitting on their classroom floor drawing pictures of Goldilocks and the Three Bears on notebook paper with Crayola crayons brought to them from the United States.

(305x345)

(Carol Haney Watson earned her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Virginia Tech in 2005 and is now an assistant professor of elementary education at Kutztown University.)
Class of 1956
50th Reunion Dinner, Saturday, October 21, 2006
Radisson Hotel, West Middlesex, PA

59 Helen Wynkoop Fink and her husband, Andy, have retired to western Michigan, where they have opened A Finch Nest, a Victorian bed and breakfast. In 2004, they walked 300 miles across Spain on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

60 Jane Houtz Alter, a retired high school economics teacher, was a speech coach at the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Republican National Conventions. She and her husband, Robert Alter ’61, live in Dayton, Ohio.

61 William Hezlep retired from Southwest Minnesota State University and was awarded emeritus status. While at the university, Bill was department chair, program coordinator and producer for the theatre program. He directed over 50 main stage plays for both the theatre program and Southwest Summer Theatre, many of which received recognition from the Kennedy Center and American College Festivals. He is the author of full-length and one-act plays and more than a dozen children’s plays.

63 David Murdoch was recently appointed regional president for the Midland Region of Commerce Bank in Midland, Mich.

40th Cluster Reunion Dinner, Classes of 1965, ’66 & ’67
Saturday, October 21, 2006
Holiday Inn Metroplex, Girard, OH

65 Steve Abbey is an independent contractor who delivers lunches for Food for Thought, a caterer. His wife, Roberta Mumpfer Abbey ’64, teaches third grade for the Mentor (Ohio) schools.

Jim George has retired as vice president for academic affairs at Cal State Bakersfield and has been appointed a community member of The Californian’s editorial board. He and his wife, Bobbie, make their home in Bakersfield, Calif.

70 Judith Ann Mitchell is a medical education administrator at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

71 Patricia Stranahan has been appointed president-elect of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The mission of the non-profit agency is to support a Christian presence in Asia’s Christian and secular academic communities.

72 Luann Moser of Mobile, Ala., recently moved from assistant principal at Dixon Elementary to principal at Turner Elementary School in the Mobile County schools.

73 Donald Houk has sold his business, Med/Aid, Inc., and has started a new venture startup in mattresses, Sleepwell. He and his wife, Sally, reside in New Castle.

74 Daniel Rindle of Newburyport, Mass., is a cartoonist at Port Planet Newspaper, and a freelance artist who illustrated the children’s book, Puff the Cloud.

John Still is president of Pharma Metrics Inc., a pharmaceutical software and consulting firm. He and his wife, Marylouise, and their two children make their home in Oreland.

62 Want your news published?

E-mail us your class notes at: alumni@westminster.edu or submit your news online at: www.westminster.edu/alumni/ar/ar_notes.cfm.

Or fax us at: (724) 946-7366 or mail us a letter at:

Office of Alumni Relations
Thompson House
Westminster College
New Wilmington, Pa. 16172-0001

Photos:
We are happy to publish photos of alumni and future Titans. Please follow these guidelines when submitting photos for publication.

Photographic prints: We accept all sizes of photographs, but prefer them to be at least 4x6 inches in size. Both color and black and white prints are acceptable.

Digital Photos: To submit a digital photo, attach it to an e-mail message addressed to alumni@westminster.edu. Please note that we require high-resolution files (a minimum of 300 pixels per inch or 300 dpi). Photos that have a lower resolution are usually not acceptable. Digital photos should be saved in JPEG or TIFF format.

Deadlines:
Class Notes printed in this issue were received prior to Oct 5, 2005. Because Westminster Magazine is a quarterly publication requiring significant lead time, please allow at least three months before your news is published. Class Notes received prior to March 3, 2006, will appear in the Spring 2006 issue.

Your IRA and Tax “Savings”
Have you considered naming Westminster College as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other retirement plan?

You can gift all or some of these assets and provide support for the future of Westminster College. And you may receive an estate tax deduction.

For more information on including Westminster in your estate planning, contact Sue Rudloff, director of advancement programs, at (724) 946-7370.

Debra Swatsworth Foster, vice president of corporate communications for H.J. Heinz Company and member of the Westminster College Board of Trustees, received IABC/Pittsburgh’s 2005 Business Communicator of the Year Award. The award recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions in practicing, promoting and enhancing professional business communications in western Pennsylvania. Debbie and her husband, Bill Foster, reside in Pittsburgh.

78 Laurie Hackett Burns received her MBA summa cum laude from the University of Phoenix. She and her husband, Robert, live in Tacoma, Wash., where Laurie is an elementary music specialist and track and field coach with the Tacoma Public Schools.

Dr. Gary Lake is a general internist and chief of the medical staff at Tuba City Regional Health Care Corp., whose hospital and clinics provide care to primarily Navajo and Hopi patients. He and his wife, Jane, and their two children live on the Navajo reservation in Tuba City, Ariz.

79 Michele Stipanovich Kirsch has been named director of administrative operations at Penn State’s Schreyer Honors College. Mitch and her husband, Rodney, reside in State College.

80 Mike Esposito is the track and field and cross country coach at High Point (N.C.) University, following a very successful program at Mount Tabor High School.
David Nobs has joined Ruder Finn, Inc., as managing director, responsible for leading the growth and development of its Los Angeles office and helping manage the agency’s consumer, sports and entertainment marketing practice. David and his wife, Mary Beth, live in Pasadena, Calif.

Class of 1981
25th Reunion Dinner, Saturday, October 21, 2006
Holiday Inn Metroplex, Girard, OH

Martha Evanoff graduated from the MBA program at Strayer University and is a systems accountant with the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, James Auchter, live in Alexandria, Va.

Richard Kennedy II has accepted a position with IBM as the sales leader for the Lotus brand, covering sector accounts in the Carolinas. He and his family live in Raleigh, N.C.

John McCoy received his master’s from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. He and his wife, Laurie Shupe McCoy ’85, and their two children have moved to Singapore, where John is the assistant special agent in charge of the NCIS field office.

Kellyn Betts is senior editor of Environmental Science and Technology magazine in Washington, D.C. She was recently interviewed regarding an article she wrote on the potential health risk of working in a cubic office environment.

Gary Butler teaches junior high choir, general music and drama in Shakopee, Minn., and is celebrating his 10th anniversary as cantor at Resurrection Lutheran Church. He and his wife, Ione, and their three children reside in Burnsville, Minn.

Dariann Battilo Rose has been promoted to vice president at Development Counsellors International, specialists in marketing communities for tourism and business investment. Dari and her husband, Frederic, make their home in Scotch Plains, N.J.

Valerie Day Wilden received her master’s of arts degree in journalism and mass communication from Point Park College. She is assistant vice president at St. Barnabas Health System. She and her husband, Gregory, and their two children reside in Wexford.

David Beatty, chief engineer for aerial sensor integration of future combat systems with Northrop Grumman Corporation, is serving as interim organist/director of music at First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, the first Presbyterian congregation in Philadelphia.

Sharon Brown Wolfe is a home-maker. She lives in Delray Beach, Fla., with her husband, David, and their twins.

Paige Crandall received her Ed.D. from Florida State University, where she is associate dean of students. She makes her home in Gainesville, Fla.

Joseph Burns is a professor at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he has received tenure. He lives in Hammond, La., with his wife, Tammy, and their son. (See also New Additions.)

Maria DiRenzo Carbone is a senior professional healthcare representative with Pfizer, Inc. She and her husband, John, and their two sons reside in Stow, Ohio.

Beth Grinager Kaniuff is the assistant to the director of stadium management for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She and her husband, John, make their home in Mars.

Tanya Martin Lord, a licensed real estate title agent, opened First Nation’s Title Agency and is the firm’s CEO. She and her husband, Robert, and their two sons live in Akron, Ohio.

Dr. Tuesdae Rodgers Stainbrook is medical director of the new Hyperbaric Medicine Unit at Dubois Regional Medical Center, medical director of the Wound Center,
infectious disease consultant, and HIV specialist for the Northwest AIDS Alliance. She and her husband, Dr. Michael Stainbrook, and their three children are residents of DuBois.

92 Dena Barefoot Masterino is the radiology practice administrator for American Radiologic Technologies, a teleradiology group based in Wexford that services MRI facilities across the country. She and her husband, Bob, live in McCandless.

Kristen Fink Scarborough is a technical trainer for McKesson Automated Prescription Services. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Rob.

Dr. Brenda May-DePaola completed her cardiovascular fellowship at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She is now stationed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where she is a staff cardiologist. She resides in Silver Spring, Md., with her husband, Vince, and daughter.

Brian Slezak has accepted a position as a senior research toxicologist with DuPont Haskell Laboratories. He and his wife, Sarah Denny Slezak ’95, and their two children have moved to West Grove.

93 Frank D’Amico has taken a position as manager of information systems with Wexford-based American Environmental Services. He and his wife, Jennifer Call D’Amico, and their two children reside in Moon Township.

94 Steven Begg is employed by the Virginia Department of Transportation as an environmental specialist/aquatic ecologist in the water quality division. He and his wife, Corinne Bentzel Begg, and their two children live in Midlothian, Va. (See also New Additions.)

Laura Luckmeier Valentine was awarded a graduate assistantship to pursue her MBA at Berry College in Mount Berry, Ga. She and her husband, William, and their two children make their home in Kingston, Ga.

95 Brian Fisher is the author of Seven Investment Tales: Simple Parables That Illustrate Financial Topics, which uses parables to simplify difficult investment topics. He founded B.E. Fisher Associates to focus on financial training and asset management. He and his wife, Jessica Headrick Fisher ’93, make their home in North Strabane.

T.J. Greggs is assistant director of residence life at Kennesaw (Ga.) State University.

Jennifer Johnson Axtell received her master’s in education from National University, and is a kindergarten teacher in the Corona-Norco Unified School District. She and her husband, Phil, and their two sons make their home in Norco, Calif. (See also New Additions.)

John Salvini was promoted to district sales manager for the public sector of ADP’s national account services. He and his wife, Ciara Zaffini Salvini ’96, live in Mars.

96 Erin Anderson Schuetz is coordinator of events and scheduling with the Office of Campus Life at Clarion University.

Matthew Esch completed his master of arts degree in counseling psychology with a specialization in couples and family therapy from Seton Hill University. He has been promoted to family-based therapist with the family-based mental health program at Family Resources. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Angela, and their son.

Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Wohl completed her residency as chief resident in psychiatry at Akron (Ohio) General Medical Center. She is now in private practice at Summit Center for Behavioral Sciences. She and her husband, Eric Jackson, and their son make their home in Akron. (See also New Additions.)

Patricia James Mutcher is publishing director with Peter Li Education Group. Patty resides in New Castle with her husband, Ray.

97 Laura Burhans received her Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Illinois, and is a post-doctoral fellow at the Blanche Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at West Virginia University.

Jason Kalajainen has been selected executive director of Ox-Bow, a summer school of art and artists’ residency that is affiliated with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Douglas Osman received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Drexel University, and is a primary therapist at Devereux Foundation, a residential treatment facility. He resides in Conshohocken.

Joey Palmeter received his master’s in music in wind conducting at Penn State. He resides in Danielson, Conn., where he is director of symphonic and marching bands at Killingly High School.

98 Meri Beth Gubanic Furlong is the Grable intern coordinator at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and is pursuing a master’s degree in secondary education at Carlow University in Pittsburgh. She lives in Port Vue with her husband, Lawrence, and their daughter. (See also New Additions.)

Michael Shanafelt received his MBA from St. Francis University. His wife, Colleen Dion Shanafelt ’96, is a physical therapist with Home Nursing Agency in Altoona. The couple and their two children are residents of Hollidaysburg. (See also New Additions.)

99 Doug Frederick received his master’s in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh, and is manager of corporate and foundation giving at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Lara Hoffman Hauser earned her master’s in gifted education from the University of Connecticut, and is an eighth-grade science teacher at Oldham County Middle School in Buckner, Ky. Her husband, Scott Hauser ’02, is in his last year of graduate school, pursuing both a master’s of divinity at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a master’s in business administration at the University of Louisville. The couple lives in Louisville with their son. (See also New Additions.)

Megan McGavern of North Huntingdon was awarded the doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is serving an internship at Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va.

Kelly Swadling Faust received a master’s in education from Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Clifton Springs, N.Y. (See also Marriages.)

5th Cluster Reunion Luncheon, Classes of 2000, ’01 & ’02 Saturday, October 21, 2006, Old ??

00 Melissa Sutmire of Monroeville received her master’s in school counseling from Slippery Rock University. She is a high school science teacher in the Penn-Trafford School District.

01 Eric Bass completed his master’s in instructional leadership from Northern Kentucky University and received his administration certification. He lives in Bellevue, Ky., where he is a math teacher at Bellevue High School.

Nathan Carlin received the master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is continuing his studies for a doctor of philosophy degree at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Alyssa Detore Truss teaches fourth grade at St. Andrews School. She and her husband, Ted, are residents of Annapolis, Md.

Collins Fobanjong has completed four years of service with the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. He lives in Annandale, Va., and is a government contractor with the U.S. Army.

Bryan Hooks received his doctorate of osteopathic medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and is serving an internship at St. Joseph’s Health Center in Warren, Ohio.

Jennifer Kreiling earned her doctorate from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Tyler Phillips of Butler received a master of arts in teaching and special education certification from LaRoche College. Tyler is teaching learning support in ninth and tenth grade in the North Allegheny School District.

Jaime Vega was a recipient of a doctorate from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Tammy Geiwitz-Rynd has accepted the position of sales promotion and public relations manager with First National Bank in Hermitage. She and her husband, Ryan, and daughter make their home in Volant. (See also New Additions.)

Chirissy Ingold has completed a joint internship in Massachusetts at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairhaven and the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford. Her work included preaching, teaching, making hospital calls and working with the community. As part of her community ministry, she established a Protestant chaplaincy at Tobey Hospital in Wareham. She is now in her final year of studies at Yale Divinity School.

JoAnn Lewis has established squareOne, a marketing advisory firm in Sharon. She and her husband, Jon Gutowski, and their daughter make their home in Volant.

Renee Mele graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a master of arts in teaching. Renee has moved to Lake Ridge, Va., and teaches second grade for Prince William County Public Schools.

Jennifer Hooks of Baden, a kindergarten teacher in the Center Area School District, received certification as a reading specialist and is enrolled in the master’s program at Slippery Rock University.

Amy Palmer of Pittsburgh is a Title I K-5 teacher in the Highlands School District in Natrona Heights and is enrolled in the master’s program at the University of Pittsburgh.

Pamela Stennis of Columbus, Ohio, received a master of arts degree in English from Youngstown State University.

Abby Wesse is a third-grade teacher in the Canton (Ohio) City Schools.

Sara Falongo has been promoted to assistant account executive at Blattner Brunner. She coordinates events and assists with media relations for United Way of Allegheny County, and generates media coverage for Zippo Manufacturing Company for new product launches.

Renee Mele received a master of arts in teaching from LaRoche College. Tyler is teaching learning support in ninth and tenth grade in the North Allegheny School District.

How an Aspiring Stockbroker Became One of Youngest Hospital CEOs in U.S.

According to Dr. Thomas C. Dolan, president and chief executive officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives, only 1 percent of their membership holds the chief executive officer position in hospitals across the country is 40 or younger. Rob Jackson, a 1991 Westminster College graduate, is among that elite number.

The 35-year-old Jackson is the chief executive officer of United Community Hospital in Grove City. He joined the hospital in 1998 and rose through the ranks to become vice president of administrative and physician services. He was named interim CEO in November 2004 and took over the job on a permanent basis in April.

“When I came to Westminster in the fall of 1987, I wanted to be a stockbroker. Thanks to Paul Frary, who was chair of the Department of Economics and Business at Westminster, I took a month-long internship offered by alumnus Dave Farmer ’85 at Canterbury Place, a long-term care facility. After a month, Dave asked me if I wanted to work there during the summer, which was when my career path took a turn and never came back to being a stockbroker. I had a wonderful experience. The people there convinced me that working in health care administration was the right answer for me.

“So I came back to Westminnie and took a fifth class of intermediate accounting in my senior year, which was suggested by Dave. He also introduced me to many people, and by April I had a job offer as financial special projects coordinator for Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh. It was a smaller hospital back then than it is now. I coordinated financing for a parking garage, bond refinancing, and worked with the University of Pittsburgh analyzing those projects that intertwined with them. By this time my whole direction to go into health care was set, but it would not have happened without the help of Westminster. Internships give you a feel for the area you are working in, and they are a great way to gain experience.”

Jackson credits another Westminster experience with strengthening his management skills while helping him pay for his tuition at the same time. A four-year resident of Russell Hall, Jackson worked first as a resident assistant, then assistant resident director, then finally as resident director under the guidance of Neal Edman, dean of student affairs.

“I was able to say on my résumé that I was responsible for 120 other students,” Jackson said.
Melissa Moore completed the education certification program at Westminster College and is a high school English teacher in the Clarion Area School District.

Ashleigh Oram of Burlington, Vt., is an administrative assistant at the Magic Hat Brewing Company, and is enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Vermont.

Jessilyn Pilato has accepted a position as an agricultural specialist with the Department of Homeland Security. She has moved to Savannah, Ga., and completed new officer training, where she received her badge and credentials.

05 Sara Noel of Dravosburg has accepted a position in the assurance department of Horovitz, Rudoy & Roteman, a certified public accounting and business advisory firm in Pittsburgh.

Amanda Ventronne has joined the instructional staff at Saltsburg Elementary School as a general music instructor. She resides in North Washington Township.

Marriages


95 Kara Sheets and Michael Albrecht, Sept. 4, 2004, at Florence (Ky.) United Methodist Church. Matron of honor was Leann Isaac Restaino, and Kristine Reichard Reynolds was a bridesmaid. Attending were Marla Sheets ’93, Susan Shaffer Leiningter, Stephanie Stoltzfus and Ralph Wilcox. Kara is senior data manager with Medical Research Laboratories International. The couple and their son reside in Burlington, Ky. (See also New Additions.)

Lynne Williams and Jeffrey Golvash, July 10, 2004, at St. Sylvester’s Church in Pittsburgh. Angela Pirone ’94 was a bridesmaid. Alumnae attending were BethAnn Brown Jones, Liz Parker Sherry and Ann Murphy Powell. Lynne teaches seventh-grade math at Brentwood Middle School. The couple lives in Whitehall.

96 Shelley Yoakam and David Campbell, Sept. 23, 2003, on Turtle Island, Fiji. A reception was held Oct. 4, 2003, in Raleigh, N.C., that included Janice Houser Stewart, Susan Mondok Iposimato, Heather Nolan Aeppli ’95, Todd Aeppli ’93 and Christie Riether Lammers ’95. Shelley is senior financial analyst with RH Donnelley, a directional media and publishing firm. The couple lives in Morrisville, N.C.


Amy Dymond and Edwin Jones, Aug. 6, 2004. Susan Kasubick-Tillman was a guest. The couple lives in Allentown, where Amy is a counselor in the Allentown School District.

Diane Highberger and Mathew Resnick, October 2004, in the Outer Banks, N.C. Alumnae in the wedding party were Angela Stover ‘98 and Cortney Price. Diane is a freelance television/video production manager. The couple recently moved to Greensburg.

98 David Prestopine and Shannon Hicks, July 2, 2005, at Wallace Memorial Chapel. Susan Prestopine Wellman ’96 was a bridesmaid and Bill Scott was an usher. Music was provided by Beth Harrison, College organist. The couple resides in New Castle, where David is a deputy county controller.

99 Kelly Swadling and Andrew Faust, May 14, 2005, in Lake Havasu, Ariz. Alumnae attending a reception in New York were Nicole Cox, Jill Grinham and Carrie Stickel. (See also Class Notes.)

00 Rebekah Borrelli and Brent Harlan, July 16, 2005, at First Alliance Church in New Castle. Alumni in the wedding party included Erica Martin Bruce ’04, Dinia DiGennaro Kollar ’99 and Jason LeVish ’98. Rebekah teaches first grade at Neshannock Memorial School. The couple resides in Volant.

Jamie Burgess and Kristopher Wilson, May 14, 2005, at St. Elizabeth’s in Pittsburgh. Jamie is employed by Strategic Images, an advertising firm. The couple lives in Brentwood.

Heidi Ludwiczak and Richard Orsico, June 25, 2005, at St. Lucy Church in New Castle. Vanessa Phillips ’06 was maid of honor. Heidi is a first-grade teacher at Conway Elementary School in the Freedom Area School District, and is enrolled in the master’s of special education program at Slippery Rock University. The couple lives in Boardman, Ohio.

Tiny Titans

The sons of Jennifer Cook Erickson and Avery Piper Craig, Class of 1994, try on the Blue & White of their mothers’ alma mater. From left to right: Will Craig, Daniel Erickson, Ben Craig, Benjamin Erickson, Matthew Craig.

01 Kimberley Geiser and Jason McIntyre, Oct. 9, 2004, in York. Alumnae in the wedding party were maid of honor Tracy Geiser '04 and Kathleen Morgan. The couple resides in Red Lion, where Kimberley is a teacher in the Southern York County School District.


02 Amiee Piccolino and William Boyd, June 25, 2005, at Unity United Presbyterian Church in Plum. The couple lives in Penn Hills, where Amiee is a substitute teacher in the Penn Hills School District.

New Additions

83 John Waite and his wife, Cynthia: a son, John Michael, on July 18, 2005. The family resides in Raleigh, N.C., where John is an account representative with Hagemeyer, an industrial distributor.

Bob Wohlwend and his wife, Christine: two sons, Alex (11) and Andrey (9), adopted from Russia on April 23, 2005. They are welcomed by big brothers Scott (17) and Steve (18) at the family home in Powell, Ohio.

86 Joseph Burns and his wife, Tammy: a son, Maxwell Edison, on Oct. 5, 2004, adopted from Guatemala. (See also Class Notes.)

91 Edward Mansell and his wife, Rose: a daughter, Greta, on Feb. 24, 2005. The family resides in Norman, Okla., where Edward is a research scientist at the University of Oklahoma.

Danielle Marscio Call and her husband, Dr. David Call '93: a son, Luke David, on July 1, 2005. He is welcomed by Morgan Christine, 5, and Maddox Douglas, 3. The family lives in Wooster, Ohio, where David has opened Wooster Internal Medicine.

Kris Tudor Bates and her husband, Ken: a son, Davis Kristopher, on June 20, 2005. He joins big brother Jackson, 5, at home in Nottingham.

Rebeccah Hyde Slade and her husband, Adam Slade: a son, Nathan, on July 13, 2005. He is welcomed by Tyler, 5, Carson, 3, and Brady, 2. Adam is employed in mortgage sales with US Mortgage Network in Wexford.

Capt. Richard Beggs and his wife, Melissa: a son, Joseph Sumner, in January 2005. The family lives in Oklahoma City, Okla., where Richard is stationed with the U.S. Air Force.

Corrine Bentzel Begg and her husband, Steven Begg: a daughter, Amanda Louise, on Oct. 22, 2003. She joins big brother Alexander, 5. (See also Class Notes.)

Laura Holmes Hahn and her husband, Gregory Hahn '93: a daughter, Isabella, adopted from Russia in June 2005. She joins Samuel (9), Carly (7), Jackson (5), and Luke (4). The family lives in Havre de Grace, Md., where Gregory is a Maryland state trooper.


Jennifer McNatt Laidlaw and her husband, Patrick Laidlaw: a son, Colin Patrick, on June 3, 2005. He is welcomed by Mackenzie, 5, and Bodie, 3, at the family’s home in Salt Lake City.

Jennifer Johnson Axtell and her husband, Philip: a son, Samuel Freeman, on July 7, 2005. He joins Maximillian, 3. (See also Class Notes.)

Kara Sheets Albrecht and her husband, Michael: a son, Colin Layke, on June 14, 2005. (See also Marriages.)

Tonya Wise McKenna and her husband, Jason: a daughter, Josephine Anne, on May 26, 2004. Tonya is a teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Monaca. The family resides in Aliquippa.

Amy Cook Leonard and her husband, David: twins, Sophia Ruth and Andrew Carl, on April 27, 2005. The family is at home in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Colleen Dion Shanafelt and her husband, Michael Shanafelt '98: a daughter, Madeline Marie, on Dec. 27, 2004. She joins Ethan Michael, 2. (See also Class Notes.)

Kristie Hayver Kopp and her husband, Ron: a daughter, Katherine Angela, on June 24, 2005. She is welcomed by Nathan, 2. The family resides in York.

Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Wohl and her husband, Eric Jackson: a son, Carson Alexander, on May 1, 2005. He is welcomed by Logan, 3. (See also Class Notes.)

Katie Wimer Martin and her husband, Aaron: a daughter, Teagan Hope Anastasia, on March 11, 2004. She joins Kyle, 6, Rhiannon, 4, and Iain, 2, at the family’s home in Avondale.

97 J.R. Evans and his wife, Mandy: a daughter, Kathryn Grace, on May 17, 2005. She is welcomed by big brother Tyler, 2. The family is at home in South Fayette Township.

Susan Kasubick-Tillman and her husband, Bryan Tillman: a daughter, Avery Margaret, on June 15, 2005. The family resides in Columbus, Ohio, where Susan is a physician assistant at Ohio State University Medical Center.

Jennifer Mosberger Vanfossen and her husband, Dave Vanfossen '96: a son, Drew Lewis, on April 15, 2005. The family lives in Glenshaw.

Melinda Pelesky Pry and her husband, Jason Pry '94: a son, William McLellan, on May 7, 2005. He joins Hannah Margaret, 3, at the family’s home in McDonald.

Teresa Rotellini Bailey and her husband, Jaison: a daughter, Alexis Faye, on March 23, 2005. She is welcomed by Austin John, 2. The family lives in McKees Rocks.

Holly Smith Heirendt and her husband, Matthew: a daughter, McKenzie Elizabeth, on April 28, 2005. The family resides in Lawrenceville.

Meri Beth Gubanic Furlong and her husband, Lawrence: a daughter, Savannah Jayne, on June 18, 2003. (See also Class Notes.)

Jennifer Jarvis Bates and her husband, George: a son, Charles Koenig, on May 27, 2005. Jennifer is a research coordinator at The Cleveland Clinic.

Emily McGuire Wilcox and her husband, Paul: a son, Jack Alden, on May 27, 2005. The family resides in Erie, where Emily is a second-grade teacher in the Millcreek Township School District.

Brittany Royer Beecroft and her husband, Sean: a daughter, Olivia Rose, on April 11, 2005. The family lives in Follansbee, W.V.


Mandy Snyder Corbett and her husband, Jeffrey: a son, Samuel Isaiah, on Nov. 29, 2004. He joins Annie Mackenzie, 4, and Austin James, 2, at home in Grove City.

99 Christie Adler Riehl and her husband, Stephen: a daughter, Jillian Marie, on April 14, 2005. She joins Adam Stephen, 2, at the family’s home in Grove City.


Lara Hoffman Hauser and her husband, Scott Hauser ’02: a son, Simon Douglas, on March 24, 2005. (See also Class Notes.)

01 Kathleen Benson Mort and her husband, Carl: a son, Charlie, on March 13, 2005. The family lives in Alliance, Ohio, where Kathleen is a guidance counselor in the Marlinton Local Schools.

Summerlea Hobbs Klinar and her husband, Henry Klinar: a daughter, Amelia Annabelle, on April 27, 2005. The family resides in New Market, Md.

In Memory

Word has reached us of the passing of the following alumni and friends of Westminster College.

To submit information for the In Memory section, please provide a complete obituary notice (if available) to the Office of Alumni Relations. Please be sure to include the names and class years of any surviving Westminster alumni relatives.

34 Leonard Baird of Chelsea, Mich., Feb. 10, 2004. He was a retired data entry manager. Survivors include two children, including Linda Baird Campbell ’70; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Paul MacMinn of Lititz, February 2005. A lifelong educator and counselor, he retired as a professor of psychology and assistant dean at Ohio State University. He formerly served as assistant pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Ill.; counseling psychologist in Chicago; dean of men at Northwestern University; military psychologist for the U.S. Army; dean of students and professor of psychology at the University of Oklahoma; and director of civil defense education and program director of the U.S. student loan program at the U.S. Office of Education. He also served as a consultant for the Peace Corps, West Point Academy, Armed Forces Institute and was a visiting professor at the University of Virginia, Michigan State University and American University. He retired from Ohio State in 1975 and remained active in community counseling and educational programs. He received his master’s and doctorate from Northwestern and also attended Garret Graduate School of Theology. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Frances; a son and his wife; a daughter; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.


38 Gracey Bell Fleeger of Titusville, Fla., September 2004. She was a former music supervisor in the Penn Township School District.

40 Harvey Mercer of Mt. Lebanon, Sept. 4, 2004. He was formerly employed by Mutual of New York and served as assistant professor of business education at Westminster from 1946-52. Survivors include four children and their spouses; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

41 Henry Hudson of Avon Park, Fla., Oct. 24, 2004. He was a retired air traffic controller. Survivors include his wife, Vynetta, and their children.

42 Francis Tinley Rosselot of Greenville. She was a retired secretary and teacher in the Greenville schools.

43 Gail McLaughlin Mercer of Mt. Lebanon, Dec. 20, 2003. Survivors include four children and their spouses; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

47 Joyce Alexander Fletcher of Cape Coral, Fla., Dec. 29, 2002. A New Castle native, she was active with the New Castle Playhouse, P.E.O., and the New Castle Country Club. She moved to Cape Coral in 1987 and was a member of the Palmetto Pine Country Club. Survivors include three daughters and their spouses; a sister; a brother, Jerry Alexander ’57; and eight grandchildren.

Dorothy Ross Mackey of Pittsburgh, July 24, 2004. She was formerly a volunteer reading specialist with the Allegheny County Literacy Council. Survivors include her husband, George; a son; a brother; and four grandsons.

49 Jane Mawhinney Jones of Virginia Beach, Va., June 30, 2005.

56 Mary Canon Goltare of Keystone Heights, Fla. She was a retired executive secretary.

Richard Newcomer of Rio Rancho, N.M., Aug. 21, 2005. The son of a Hearst newspaper accountant and a silent movie actress, he was a multilingual world-traveler who began his professional communications career as a disc jockey while an undergraduate. Following three years of Army duty, in which he served as a disc jockey and reporter of broadcast news with the Armed Forces Network,
he resumed his broadcast career in Youngstown, Ohio; Iowa City, Iowa; Miami, Fla.; and Voice of America. He earned a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Iowa, and became a foreign service officer with the U.S. Information Agency, serving as information officer, press attache and editor of French language publications in West and Central Africa. In the field of international business communications, he held various positions with firms in New York, Brussels, London, Chicago, Milwaukee and Pittsburgh. He moved to Saudi Arabia in 1983, joining the Saudi Investment Bank (1983-86) then Saudi Basic Industries (1986-2000) before retiring to New Mexico. Survivors include a son; a daughter; a brother; and a grandson.

59 Ernest Haydu of Warren, Ohio. He was a former insurance agent.

60 Judith Kirkpatrick Zimmerman of Pittsburgh, May 13, 2005. A retired teacher, she was a longtime member of Calvary Episcopal Church. Survivors include her husband, Scott Zimmerman; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

Edward Pack of Poland, Ohio. He was a retired teacher in the Youngstown School District.

61 Chris Kiriakou of New Castle, Nov. 19, 2003. A U.S. Army veteran, he retired as a principal in the New Castle schools. Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Stella; two sons; and a daughter.

Anne Vance Francis of Indianapolis. She was formerly an instructor at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Ill.

73 Carl Angelo of Warren, Ohio, Aug. 23, 2005.

03 Coral Zeigler of New Castle, July 31, 2005. She recently received her master’s degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh and had just accepted a teaching position in the Norfolk, Va., public schools. A 1999 graduate of Laurel High School, she was a member of the Phi Mu sorority and was in the Homecoming court at Westminster. Survivors include her parents; her maternal grandfather; her paternal grandmother; and a brother.

05 Sandra Edmiston of New Wilmington, Aug. 1, 2005. A 2001 graduate of Wilmington Area High School, where she was valedictorian, she graduated summa cum laude from Westminster and was the senior class speaker at Commencement this past May. While at Westminster she founded the Sierra Student Coalition and was a scholar-athlete on the cross country team. She was most recently serving as an intern at a conservation center in Wyoming’s Grand Teton National Park. Survivors include her parents, John & Kati Edmiston ’00; brother Logan Edmiston ’04; her maternal grandparents; and her paternal grandmother.

Friends

Bill Blackburn of Wilmore, Ky., July 25, 2005. He was a superintendent of buildings and grounds at Westminster for 40 years. He previously worked as director of physical plant at Union College in Barbourville, Ky., from 1948-58. He was president of the New Wilmington Borough Council for many years and was an elder and trustee of the New Wilmington United Presbyterian Church. He was past president of the New Wilmington Rotary Club and received its Distinguished Citizen Award in 1978. Survivors include two sons and their spouses; two brothers and their spouses; a sister; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

John Gilkey of New Castle, July 31, 2005. He was a clerk at the New Wilmington Post Office and worked part-time in the athletic department at Westminster as an evening and weekend security attendant. A U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, he was a member of the Second Wind Running Club and attended New Life Baptist Church.
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<td>Mr. George F. Bolinger</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Chalmers E. Zech</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*deceased
The tower of Old Main reaches for the evening sky as the rededication of the 76-year-old building takes place in the shadows below. The $3 million renovation of the building was completed over the summer; the rededication was held on Sept. 23.