It's Tookie's Turn
Judge George E. James
grateful for the titans in his life
Dear Westminster Friends,

My wife Jean likes to shop. I like to shop (generally for about 7-10 minutes). So after I have checked out the tie rack in T.J. Maxx, I head for the nearest bookstore. Once there, I review the college guide books to see what they are saying about Westminster and our competitors. The Princeton Review book of “357 Best Colleges in America” describes Westminster as a place “where professors have a genuine passion to teach, and enjoys an excellent reputation for combining tough academics with real-world preparation.”

That sums it up pretty well, but there is an extra dimension to Westminster that is a little harder to communicate. Prospective students tell me that they can “just feel it” when they arrive for their first interview. How then, shall we select the students who are best suited to benefit from the Westminster experience?

The guide books have developed proprietary formulas to determine “selectivity” by the numbers – and numbers are important. However, given the numerical levels of achievement required for Westminster students, we are working to take “selectivity” to the next level. The objective is to assure the “best fit” for each student taking a place in the freshman class.

Student interviews on campus and off have always been a critically important part of the admissions process. The interview gives prospective students the chance to reveal who they are and to talk about their aspirations in addition to presenting test scores and grade point averages.

Admissions counselors depend on the numbers and the interview, backed by recommendations from those who have known the prospective student for years. Westminster-degreed teachers and Presbyterian churches all over the U.S.A. are now part of the admissions process for students who have a 3.5 GPA in high school and aspire to attend Westminster. Teachers and preachers know their students and church members well. They are helping to reach the “next level” of selectivity through the Jerb Miller and Young Presbyterian Scholarship programs. Nominated students are included in the College’s early-action admissions program in order to assure the first and best opportunity to matriculate. Last year, 26 percent of the entering undergraduates were nominated for early action. This year it is likely that 33 percent of the incoming class will be early-action Jerb Miller and YPS nominees.

We’ll keep trying to understand and describe the extra dimension that students “feel” when they take their first walk through the quad. If you have a story about your first visit to Westminster and are willing to see excerpts from it in print, please send it to me. I’ll need some good reading material for the next time Jean goes shopping.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Williamson
Westminster’s Minority Population on the Rise

Strategic goal emphasizing racial diversity becoming a reality.

On the Shoulders of Giants

Westminster’s titans helped steer George “Tookie” James toward his date with history.

‘A Credit to his Race’

John F. Quarles: Westminster’s first black graduate
Grants to Aid Renovation of Old Main Memorial

Westminster College recently received grants from Pennsylvania foundations supporting the ongoing renovations of Old Main Memorial.

Westminster received a $300,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh, and a $10,000 grant from the Samuel P. Black Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation.

“We are deeply grateful to the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Samuel P. Black Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation for their support of the Project for Old Main,” said Westminster President R. Thomas Williamson. “Old Main is our signature academic and administrative facility, and has had only minor renovations since it was built in 1929.”

Project infrastructure improvements include upgrading the building’s electrical and heating systems and installing a sprinkler system, elevator, additional restrooms, and air conditioning. Classrooms and academic program areas are also being enhanced, the Chapel is being refurbished, and the bell tower masonry is being restored.

The $3 million Old Main renovation began last summer, and the entire project is to be completed by early September.

The Project for Old Main is the sixth of seven construction and renovation projects included in Westminster College’s $30 million Shared Vision...Uncommon Results fund-raising initiative. The five projects completed since 1998 total nearly $23 million and include the Western Pennsylvania Cultural Arts Center ($1.7 million), Marjorie A. Walker Recreation Center ($285,000), Andrew J. McKelvey Campus Center ($14.4 million), Thompson-Clark Hall ($3 million), and the Memorial Field House ($3.4 million).

The hallways of Old Main are a little quieter during business hours. With renovations ongoing during the Spring Semester, several College administrative offices, such as the business office and human resources and payroll, have been temporarily relocated.

Westminster Trustee Receives Award for Government Service

Doreen McCall, a member of Westminster’s Board of Trustees, has been honored as Pennsylvania Government Lawyer of the Year by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Government Lawyers’ Committee.

The award honors a government lawyer who has made a significant singular contribution or has dedicated his or her career to outstanding service to the profession for the benefit of the public or a governmental entity.

McCall, who began her first year on the Westminster Board in 2004, is chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg and also serves as counsel to the state’s Historic Preservation Board. She previously served as assistant general counsel, then deputy general counsel in the Governor’s Office of General Counsel.

Fresh Perspectives

College welcomes a diverse group of guest speakers

Westminster College welcomed a series of renowned authors, professors, physicians, and musicians to campus during the winter months, providing students, faculty and staff with fresh perspectives of the issues of the day.

Among the guest speakers to visit Westminster were:


- Dr. James Gregory of Family Medicine Associates in New Wilmington, who gave a presentation on autism from the perspective of parent and physician, Nov. 18 in Hoyt Science Resources Center.

- Terry Collins, director of the Institute for Green Oxidation Chemistry, spoke Feb. 2 in the Witherspoon Rooms of McKelvey Campus Center. Collins is the Thomas Lord Professor of Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University.

- Organist Dana Robinson, who played in Orr Auditorium Feb. 4, as part of the Capelle Meisters Classical Organ Concert Series. Robinson, professor of organ at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana, is “one of the best young performers in the United States in Europe,” said Westminster organist Elizabeth Harrison.

- Author and poet Thomas Centolella, spoke in the Mueller Theater in the McKelvey Campus Center Feb. 1. The author of three collections of poetry, Centolella’s honors include include the American Book Award, a Lannan Liberty Fellowship, and the California Book Award from the Commonwealth Club. He has been a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University.

- Rolf Loebner, professor of psychiatry at the Pittsburgh School of Medicine, presented his research on inner city youth risk factors Feb. 22 in Phillips Lecture Hall. Loebner received the 2003 Distinguished Contribution Award by the American Psychological Association and was recognized as a Fellow by the American Society of Criminology from the University of Cambridge.
Sigler Latest Westminster Senior to Receive PRSA Award

For the fourth time in six years, a Westminster College public relations student has taken home a scholarship awarded by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Senior Megan Sigler was awarded the Renaissance Student Scholarship Award at a banquet in 2004, following the lead of Meghan Duda Corbin ’01 (1999), Amanda Kengersky ’03 (2002) and Sara Ialongo ’04 (2003). Westminster alumnae Deborah Swatsworth Foster ’74 and Jennifer Shifler Gross ’99 have also been honored in recent years by the Pittsburgh chapter.

“It’s truly a testament to our excellent public relations program at Westminster,” Sigler said.

The Renaissance Student Scholarship Award recognizes the outstanding Western Pennsylvania undergraduate student in public relations, based on academic achievements, extracurricular involvement, letters of endorsement, and essays.

“Receiving the Renaissance Award has been the greatest honor of my college career,” Sigler said. “The best part about winning this award is that it gets your face out there before graduation to open up doors for job opportunities.”

Sigler, a Cranberry Township native, is editor-in-chief of the Holcad. She also serves as a teaching assistant in the Learning Center, and as an executive board member for the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), and Omicron Delta Kappa, a leadership honor society. Sigler is active in Theatre Westminster, Alpha Psi Omega, the theater honor society, and Sigma Kappa sorority. During the summers, she worked as a public relations intern for the Society of Automotive Engineers in Warrendale.

Westminster Community Sends 54 Boxes to Troops for Christmas

Sparked by Westminster College Bookstore clerk Linda Butler, whose son was stationed in Mosul, the Westminster community collected items to send 54 care packages to soldiers stationed in Iraq.

“I just want to thank everyone because this means so much to these boys,” said Butler, whose son Scott is a member of the Battery A First Battalion of the 107th Field Artillery, a military police unit. “It’s a connection to home. I’m so thrilled at the response from Westminster staff and students. When there’s need, everyone pulls together here.”

The packages included items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, canned food items and reading material.

“We had enough to send to all 32 soldiers in my son’s unit, and a box to every soldier who had a connection with the College like Josh Shaffer, who has a girlfriend at Westminster, and Terry Bolger, whose wife Dorita works here. We even sent a couple of boxes so that they could have Christmas and New Year’s parties. It contained huge containers of things like salsa and chips.”

Donations came from all corners of the campus. Westminster junior elementary education majors, for example, donated money each week to purchase items, and the education faculty and staff donated money instead of exchanging gifts with each other. The packages also included either a Christmas card or a note written by a Westminster Preschool student. One such child wrote, “I want to wish you luck. Please keep all the soldiers safe and come home soon.” Another wrote, “I love you because I like you. Thank you for everything and here is a hug.”

“My son knew about this, but many of the 32 soldiers that live in his quarters did not,” Butler said. “I talked to him Sunday. He was so excited.” Butler said. “He said that the driver of his Humvee received his box on Friday, and the guys laughed because he hadn’t got his yet. The guys live together in one big room, so the news travels fast.”

WWNW Radio Station to Expand Coverage Area

Westminster’s radio station, WWNW Digital 88.9 FM, will soon expand its coverage area even more.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved the College’s request for a 4,000-watt station. The College must first secure funding for the $30,000 project, which will require a new antenna and increased transmitting power, according to Dave Barner, chair of the Department of Communication Studies, Theatre, and Art.

“We hope to complete the project by the summer of 2006,” said Barner. “This would greatly extend the coverage area. Broadcast students will have the ability to develop programming to serve a broader off-campus community, since the signal will now be strong enough to do so. The coverage area will cover all of Lawrence County and expand into Eastern Ohio and north to the Shenango Valley.”

Until the summer of 2004, the station operated at 100 watts with an antenna located in a low spot on campus. The antenna was then moved to the hill across from the President’s home and the power was increased to 200 watts.

“Titan radio’s goal will continue to be serving our community with quality programming, including Titan sports broadcasts, while giving Westminster students the opportunity to gain experience in the real world,” Barner said. “The radio staff is excited that more alumni and local residents will benefit from our increased signal.”

WWNW-88.9 FM is the only FM station with studios and transmitter in Lawrence County.
History professor co-authors book, presents research

Russell Martin, associate professor of history at Westminster, recently co-authored a book on Russian history and presented research papers in Boston at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS).

Martin and co-authors Marshall Poe, Ol’ga Kosheleva and Boris Morozov published The Russian Elite in the Seventeenth Century: The Consular and Ceremonial Ranks of the Russian “Sovereign’s Court,” 1613-1713, a print version of an electronic database of Muscovite and medieval Russian elites who held the four highest ranks in the royal court.

“For generations, historians have not had a complete list of the names of persons who held these ranks. The goal of the database project and this book was to provide a definitive list of names of everybody who was anybody at the ruler’s court from the turn of the 16th century to the turn of the 17th century,” said Martin.

“The other important aspect of the database project is the fact that this was an academic ‘joint venture’ between American and Russian scholars, one of the first to form after the fall of the Soviet Union.”

At the AAASS annual meeting, Martin presented “Tsarevna Ovdotia and Her Sister Domna Saburovna: Matrimonial Spectacle and the Integration of Royal In-Laws into the Ruling Circle (1571),” and “The Current State of the Study of Death and Commemoration.”

The former paper analyzed a little-known medieval source for the wedding of Ivan the Terrible’s son, Ivan Ivanovich, to Ovdotia Saburovna. The latter was part of a roundtable and focused on the state of the study of various topics in the history of Russian Orthodoxy.

While at the meeting, Martin was elected to a three-year term on the book award committee of the Early Slavic Studies Association (ESSA). The ESSA is a group of scholars doing work in all Slavic areas and in various disciplines such as history, literary studies, archeology, and linguistics.

Three Theatre Majors Produce Original Play

Senior theatre majors Robert Allen, Rachael Mellor and Justin Bryan recently debuted in Beeghly Theater an original play written by Allen.

“Hold On” was a completely student-run production – not just the writing, directing and acting, but also the set design and lighting design, publicity, costumes and props. Other students involved in the production included actors Mick Henninger, Tom Burkhart and Sarah Timm, set designer and stage manager Ben Wacker, light designer Amanda Kovacic; assistant stage manager John Buco and house manager Nicole Patterson.

Allen wrote “Hold On” over the summer while working for the Huron (Ohio) Playhouse.

“The inspiration for the play came to me while I was reading a novel,” Allen said. “It took me two months to finish this 63-page script.

“The play is about Holden and Julie, two students who have just graduated from college. Holden plans to ask Julie to marry him, but is worried about how her overprotective father will take it,” Allen said.

The play was entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in January.

Student Photo Displayed in Area Art Show

Ryan Mistovich, a junior interdisciplinary major, recently had a photo accepted for the 68th Area Artist Annual Exhibition Listing at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio.

The show features a photo Mistovich took of a shelf mushroom while getting acquainted with his new Canon Rebel 35mm camera for a class with art professor Peggy Cox.

“The museum usually brings in a well-known art critic or artist to select the works for the exhibit,” Cox said. “Competition for a spot in the exhibit can be upwards of 200 entries or more.”

Mistovich has no plans to become a photographer or artist, however.

“First I wanted to be a doctor, but then I started looking at other options. I want to go to dental school, but I never wanted to be a biology major,” Mistovich said. “Here [at Westminster] I can take enough science courses to get into dental school without being a biology major. I’ve been playing an instrument since I was in fifth grade, and I’ve been taking photos for a long time, so I chose to make my own major of music and art. It’s what I enjoy, and I can still get into the graduate school I need to become a dentist.”

Westminster Makes Strong Showing at Regional Contest

A pair of teams from Westminster recently competed in the East Central North American Regional Programming Tournament, with the College’s Team A placing 15th overall out of 131.

The trio of senior Bradley Patton, junior William Shondelmyer and sophomore Jeremy Alberth posted Westminster’s highest finish ever at the regional contest. Teams from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Ontario competed in this regional event at Ashland University and three other locations.

“No other liberal arts school placed higher than we did,” said John Bonomo, associate professor of computer science at Westminster, who has been a judge or head judge at the regional competitions for the past six years, and a problem contributor for the past seven.

Westminster’s Team B of seniors Susan Johns, Bradley Kita and Geoffrey Zimmerman placed 97th in the regional competition.
Faculty Making News

Diana Reed and Deborah Sawyer Roud ’78, preschool teachers at the Westminster College Preschool Lab, had eight activities accepted for publication in The Giant Encyclopedia of Learning Center Activities, which will be released in May 2005. “The articles we submitted were descriptions of activities that are developed with the preschool child’s capabilities and interests in mind,” said Reed. “The articles chosen include step-by-step directions explaining how to do the activities; the materials needed; how to extend the activity to other areas of the curriculum and books, songs, or poems that may be used in conjunction with the activity.”

Elizabeth Harrison, assistant professor of music and College organist, recently judged the International Schnitger Organ Competition at St. Jacob’s Church in Hamburg, Germany. “The competition included competitors from Europe, the United States, Japan, and Korea,” Harrison said. “Competitors were all under the age of 26, and were asked to perform specific repertoire appropriate for the antique organ they were playing.”

Carolyn Kidder Cuff ’78, professor of mathematics at Westminster, was invited to speak at the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics 53rd annual meeting held in Erie. “My talk, ‘When I Grow up I Want to be…Statistics for the Nurse, Movie Star and Football Player,’ focused on the data analysis of these professions,” Cuff said. She also recently presented a paper at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) meeting held in San Antonio, Texas. “As one of four invited to a panel organized by the Reformed Theology and History Group of AAR to discuss the ‘Place of the Bible in Reformed Theology,’ I presented ‘Biblical Theology and Dogmatic Theology: the Tortuous and the Torturous Tale of Scriptura and Traditio,’” Na said.

Na Kang-Yup Na, assistant professor of religion at Westminster, recently presented a paper to the joint meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) held in San Antonio, Texas. “As one of four invited to a panel organized by the Reformed Theology and History Group of AAR to discuss the ‘Place of the Bible in Reformed Theology,’ I presented ‘Biblical Theology and Dogmatic Theology: the Tortuous and the Torturous Tale of Scriptura and Traditio,’” Na said.

James Perkins, professor of English at Westminster, has written The Cass Mastern Material: The Core of Robert Penn Warren’s “All the King’s Men.” “The most interesting thing that I got out of this book is a new interpretation of Warren’s ‘All the King’s Men,’” Perkins said. “My research shows that the basic plot of the book has been misunderstood by critics for more than 50 years. Using genetic evidence derived from the descriptions of the major characters Patrick McCarthy (professor of biology at Westminster) and I were able to eliminate Judge Irwin as Jack Burden’s father. It took me 10 years to write this book – five to do the research and five to figure out what the research meant.”

Stephanie Corrette-Bennett, a biology mobile educator for Westminster’s Science in Motion program, had her research published online in the December issue of Nucleic Acids Research. The article, “DNA Polymerase, RFC and PCNA are Required for Repair Synthesis of Large Looped Heteroduplexes in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae,” is about identifying proteins involved in repair of a specific type of DNA mutation.

Professor of French Carol Bove was one of 21 selected to attend the 2005 Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar on the Holocaust in Washington, D.C. “I found the seminar very useful for preparing the travel seminar and cluster course I plan to teach with Phyllis Kitzerow [professor of sociology],” Bove said. “Both courses will include the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in France.”

Kristin Park, associate professor of sociology at Westminster, will advise on the film, “Childless by Choice: Love Stories,” a documentary that will focus on the thoughts and experiences of voluntarily childless couples. “The filmmaker, Laura Scott, read my research to provide her with background on the topic, and we interacted as she was forming her survey and interviewing questions,” Park said. Park also recently learned that her article, “Choosing Childlessness: Weber’s Typology of Action and Motives of the Voluntarily Childless,” will be published in Sociological Inquiry.

James Hall, professor of mathematics at Westminster, recently presented a paper, “Differential Equations Enriched by Vector Space Concepts,” at the joint meeting of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). “My paper suggests that recent reappearance of the integrated course in differential equations and linear algebra is an occasion for exploring how the two math specialties overlap and reinforce each other,” Hall said.

James Rhoads, associate professor of political science, was recently elected president of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity (ISSSS) at the group’s annual meeting held at the University of Georgia. “ISSSS is a group of scholars dedicated to furthering the ideas of William Stephenson, inventor of Q methodology, and promoting the use of the methodology,” Rhoads said. “I will preside over the organization through this fall’s meeting in Vancouver.”

Camila Barí De Lopez, an associate professor of Spanish at Westminster College, recently presented a paper at an international conference held at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile. “I presented a paper on ‘Social Stratification and Legitimization of the Mestizo Ethnicity for Establishing Latin American Republics in Juan de la Rose: Memoirs of the Last Soldier of the Independence Movement by Nataniel Aguirre,’” Lopez said.
Fall Sports Highlights

Cross Country
The Westminster men’s and women’s cross country teams placed second and fourth, respectively, at the 2004 Presidents’ Athletic Conference Championships under head coach Gary Lilly.

On the men’s side, a trio of Titans earned all-conference recognition. Senior Marcus Corvino led the way as a first-team honoree after placing seventh at the PAC Championships, while freshmen Chris Diamond and Nate Mitchell earned second-team laurels after placing 10th and 13th, respectively. The Titans captured regular-season invitational titles at Bethany and Waynesburg. Diamond won the individual title at the Bethany meet.

The Lady Titans were paced by senior Felicie Reid, who was the team’s top finisher in most races, including a team-best 16th-place finish at the PAC Championships.

Football (5-5, 2-3 PAC)
The Titans, under the direction of fifth-year head coach Jerry Schmitt, bounced back from an 0-2 start to post the program’s 49th record of .500 or better in the past 53 years.

Fourteen Titans earned All-PAC honors, led by first-team selections Scott Froelich, Don Waldron and Phil Frye. Froelich and Waldron were also named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Southwest First Team.

Froelich rushed for 1,351 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2004, leading the PAC in rushing for the second consecutive season. The senior tailback ended his career with 4,903 yards, second all-time at Westminster.

Waldron, a senior linebacker, recorded 66 total tackles (46 solo, 20 assisted) in 2004, adding two pass breakups, a fumble recovery, 6.5 sacks and seven tackles for losses.

Frye, a senior offensive lineman, spearheaded the Titan offensive line in 2004. He was a second-team pick in 2003.

Senior wide receiver Brian Ekis, senior defensive tackle Tony Ventresco, senior defensive back Mike Kohowski, and freshman punter Dusty Rhodes were chosen to the second team.

Men’s Soccer (16-5, 8-2 PAC)
The Titans, led by head coach Girish Thakar, captured the PAC regular-season title and made their second NCAA playoff appearance in three years.

Westminster ran off to an 11-0 start to the season and finished as the top seed for the PAC Tournament. Upset by Bethany in the postseason, the Titans rebounded to beat Pitt-Greensburg 1-0 in a first-round NCAA Division III playoff game. The season came to a close with a 5-0 loss to Messiah.

Six players earned all-conference recognition, led by first-team picks Sebastian Driver-Salazar and Stefan Weitzel.

Driver-Salazar, a senior midfielder, posted five goals and seven assists for 17 points and scored on Westminster’s only two penalty kicks of the year. Weitzel, a freshman, keyed a defensive unit which allowed just 23 goals in 21 games.

Senior defenders Christian Davoli and Nick White and sophomore forward Blake Ordell were All-PAC second-team picks. Ordell tied Garrett Horvath and Zach Saxman for the team lead with six goals. Sophomore goalkeeper Anthony Beilstein was an honorable mention selection.

Women’s Soccer (14-6-3, 8-1-1 PAC)
The Lady Titan kickers rolled to their third consecutive PAC title and earned their third straight NCAA playoff berth.

For the third straight season, Westminster upended Grove City for the PAC championship. The two teams played to a 1-1 tie through regulation and overtime, before the Lady Titans edged Grove City 4-3 in penalty kicks to clinch the title. Westminster then knocked Frostburg State 1-0 before falling by penalty kicks, in the NCAA playoffs.

Westminster dominated the All-PAC teams with eight honorees, including four first-team picks. Leading the way on the first team was senior goalkeeper Nicole Drummond, senior forward Angie.

Offensive linemen Bryan Borkovich and B.A. Lambie, tight end Josh Bero, linebackers Ryan Aleski and Tom Kaminsky, and defensive backs Justin Martinchek and Joey Tissler were honorable mention selections.

Freshman forward Andrew Saporito contributed four goals and three assists in 2004 as the Titans posted a regular-season PAC championship and a berth in the NCAA playoffs.
Saporito tallied a pair of game-winning goals during the campaign, including both goals in a 2-0 win over Penn State-Behrend.
Veteran head coach Kip Haas poses with players and their family members after the 2004 PAC Tennis Championships in Erie. Haas, who joined the Westminster faculty in 1970, announced her retirement from coaching shortly after being named PAC Coach of the Year.

Left: Freshman defender Kristen Martin keeps an eye on a Wooster attacker. A miserly defense that allowed only 20 goals in 23 games helped the Lady Titans soccer team capture its third consecutive PAC championship and third straight NCAA playoff berth.

Below: Dana Larson teamed up with Christina Commissio to post a 12-2 mark at second doubles in 2004.

Women’s Tennis (9-5, 4-1 PAC)
The Lady Titan netters posted their fifth straight winning season and posted a third-place finish at the PAC Championships. Veteran head coach S. Kipley Haas, who announced after the season that she would be retiring after 35 years in the Westminster athletic department, capped her career by being named PAC Coach of the Year.

Three Lady Titans earned all-conference first-team honors after winning their flight at the league championships. Freshman Christina Commissio was the PAC champion at sixth singles, while the senior duo of Bethany Grubbs and Amy Browell captured the league crown at third doubles. Browell was also a second-team honoree at fifth singles for Westminster.

Browell led the team with 13 singles victories, including a 12-2 mark at fifth singles. Commissio was 12-2 at sixth singles. Browell and Grubbs were 13-3 in doubles action, and Commissio teamed with Dana Larson to go 12-4.

Volleyball (20-13, 7-3 PAC)
The Westminster spikers posted a second-place finish at the PAC Tournament under 11th-year head coach Tammy Swearingen.

Four Lady Titans earned postseason honors, led by junior outside hitter Erin Hinks who was a first-team All-PAC selection. Hinks led Westminster in kills with 366, while adding 39 aces, 273 digs and 45 blocks this season.

All-conference second-team laurels went to senior middle hitter Sarah McKain (203 kills, 70 blocks) and sophomore middle hitter Katie McDermott (229 kills, 50 aces, team-high 106 blocks). Senior libero Sara Miller was named PAC Defensive Player of the Year after recording a team-high 530 digs.

DePascale, sophomore forward Sarah Calderone, and freshman forward Scarlett Bretz. Drummond allowed less than one goal per game (0.97 GAA) while posting a school-record 10 shutouts with 117 saves. Bretz led the squad in scoring with 13 goals and seven assists for 33 points, followed by DePascale, who added nine goals and five assists for 23 points. Calderone scored two goals and had a team-best eight assists for 12 points.

Freshmen Mallory Bugel, Kaitlyn Etzel-Hardman and Brittany McKee were second-team all-conference picks. Etzel-Hardman is a midfielder; Bugel and McKee are defenders. Senior midfielder Melissa Schroder was an honorable mention selection.
Senior football standout Tony Ventresco was recently named to the 2004 Division III All-America honorable mention team by D3Football.com, heading a list of fall Titan athletes earning postseason honors.

Ventresco’s teammate, running back Scott Froelich, was an all-region pick by Don Hansen’s National Weekly Football Gazette. Men’s soccer standouts Sebastian Driver-Salazar and Stefan Weitzel earned all-region honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

Ventresco, a 6-2, 265-lb. defensive tackle, was a four-year letterman and three-year starter for the Titans, and served as one of the team’s tri-captains in 2004. The Boardman, Ohio, native led the team in total tackles with 82 (63 solo, 19 assisted), quarterback sacks (8.5), and tackles for losses (11). He also broke up three passes and forced a fumble.

A second-team All-Presidents’ Athletic Conference selection in 2004, Ventresco finished his career with 213 career tackles. Froelich, a senior, was named to the Division III All-South Region Second Team. He carried 266 times in 2004 for 1,351 yards and 14 touchdowns and led the PAC in rushing for the second consecutive season. He also caught 15 passes for 100 yards and a touchdown. A three-time All-PAC selection (2003-04), Froelich led Westminster in rushing for four straight years and finished second on the Titan career rushing list with 4,903 yards. He was named PAC Player of the Year and ECAC Division III South Region Player of the Year in 2003.

Driver-Salazar, a senior midfielder for the Titan soccer team, was a first-team 2004 All-Mid-Atlantic Region pick by the NSCAA, while Weitzel, a freshman defender, was named to the second team. Driver-Salazar was second on the team in scoring in 2004 with five goals and seven assists for 17 points. He was fifth in the PAC in assists and eighth in points per game.

Weitzel, an exchange student from Germany, was the backbone of the Westminster defensive unit which allowed just 23 goals in 21 games, and posted a PAC-best 10 shutouts.

The 2004 Titans finished 16-5 overall, including an 8-2 mark and first-place regular-season finish in the PAC. Under the direction of seventh-year head coach Girish Thakar, Westminster was selected for the NCAA Division III playoffs for the second time in the last three years.

Six Westminster student-athletes earned academic all-district recognition in the fall from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The honored include two players each from the Titan football, and men’s and women’s soccer teams.

Senior football players Clint DeLuca and Ryan Aleski were each named to the 2004 Academic All-District II College Division Second Team. DeLuca, a defensive back, led the Titans with 10 pass breakups and was second on the team in total tackles. He possesses a 3.699 GPA with a major in biology.

Aleski, a linebacker and elementary education major, posted 46 tackles in seven games before a season-ending injury. He holds a 3.407 GPA.

For the men’s soccer team, senior defender Nick White was tabbed to the All-District II College Division Soccer First Team. Senior midfielder Sebastian Driver-Salazar was a second-team selection. White, a four-year starter, helped anchor a defense that allowed just 1.07 goals per game. He is now a first-semester graduate student who posted a 3.667 undergraduate GPA majoring in elementary education.

Driver-Salazar, also a four-year starter and a first-team all-conference selection in 2004, ranked second on the team with 17 points. He holds a 3.364 GPA and is majoring in broadcast communications.

For the Lady Titans, senior goalkeeper Nicole Drummond was selected to the first team, while senior midfielder Melissa Schroder earned second-team laurels. Drummond allowed 20 goals in 1,858 minutes (0.97 GAA) while posting 117 saves and a school-record 10 shutouts in 2004. She has a 3.601 GPA, majoring in biology.

Schroder posted two goals and three assists for seven points in 2004, while maintaining a 3.829 GPA. She is a double major in elementary education and Christian education.
Alumni Ecotour to Ecuador Offered

Clarence Harms, professor of biology emeritus and director of Westminster’s Field Station, will lead his fourth alumni trip to Ecuador June 25 to July 11. The group will fly from Miami into Quito and then across the Andes deep into the rainforest. Here the Aguarico River is the highway on which motorized canoes and dugouts ply the waters to various special habitats of the rainforest to see birds, monkeys, butterflies and plants. Day trips from Quito include swimming in hot springs three miles above sea level and shopping in the world famous Otavalo market of northern Ecuador. Besides the rainforest, the major ecological focus of this ecotour is the Galapagos, a World Heritage Site. Eight days aboard the yacht Guantanamera will convince travelers that there is “nothing like it on the face of the earth.” Those certified for scuba can dive with Harms and a local divemaster. A daylong horse-back ride will venture into a volcano on the largest of the islands. Before returning home, the group will spend one day in Guayaquil, Ecuador’s largest city.

Travel for this ecotour is from Miami and returns to Miami. The fee of $3,880 includes all basic expenses, four meals, beverages and scuba charges per dive, but doesn’t include travel to and from Miami.

In addition to alumni travel, Harms has conducted 16 student travel courses to tropical places, including three to Ecuador. He is an experienced scuba diver. For more information contact Harms at Box 116, Westminster College, or by e-mail Travel_wClarence@hotmail.com or harmsc@westminster.edu.

Westminster Plates Now In Production

Westminster College Commonwealth of Pennsylvania license plates are now in production. Printable license plate applications are available online at www.westminster.edu/alumni/license_plate.cfm, or contact the alumni office for more information.

HOMECOMING 2005!
Homecoming & Reunion Weekend
September 23, 24 & 25, 2005

Class & Cluster Reunions

- 10th Cluster ~ 1994, ’95 & ’96
- 25th Reunion ~ 1980
- 30th Cluster ~ 1974, ’75 & ’76
- 45th Cluster ~ 1959, ’60 & ’61
- 50th Reunion ~ 1955

Broadcast Reunion Reception and tours of new facilities Saturday morning

Visit the Homecoming & Reunion Weekend sections of the Westminster Web page for further information: www.westminster.edu/alumni/ar/ar_homecoming.cfm

Westminster volunteer Workshop

April 16, 2005

What do the United Way, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, YMCA, Rotary, and churches have in common? These are just a few of the organizations Westminster alumni support through volunteer efforts. Alumni also support their alma mater through gifts of time and talent as well as give service in their home communities. These efforts are the extension of the Westminster tradition encouraging students to commit themselves to “responsible service as world citizens.”

The Westminster Workshop offers timely, professional advice and experience in event planning, fundraising and admissions. Workshop sessions are designed to enhance volunteer efforts in a wide variety of community venues as well as support of their alma mater.

All alumni are invited to attend the workshop to enhance volunteer efforts for Westminster and other organizations. Workshop schedule, speaker information and printable reservation form are available online at www.westminster.edu/alumni/ar/volunteer_workshop.cfm, or through the alumni office.
As coordinator of advancement events for Westminster College, Cindy works with regional alumni groups throughout the country to develop and strengthen Westminster connections.

November 10, 2004, Columbus, OH. I traveled to Columbus to meet with new trustee John Landolfi ’86. John and his wife, Christina, will host a Columbus-area alumni event at their home on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Nicole Fulmer Toombs ’94 will assist. Watch for the invitation – make plans to join Tom and Jean Williamson for this special evening.

November 17-19, 2004, Eastern PA Region. Gloria Cagigas, vice president for institutional advancement, and I visited with alumni throughout Eastern Pennsylvania in preparation for a September 2005 trip for President Williamson. We met with Stuart Spisak ’82, Betsy and Doug Pride ’80, and Frank Saylor ’78 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Then on to Huntingdon, where we met Tom Ritchey ’73, associate vice president, development, at Juniata College. We made a scenic drive through the mountains to Harrisburg where we met with Harrisburg Planning Committee members, Ginny McMahon Hopper ’58 and Don Hopper ’56, Peggy Edmonds McConnell ’55 and Judd McConnell ’55, and Fran Treisbach ’66. Special thanks to Ginny and Don Hopper for hosting Gloria and me at their home!

November 18. We enjoyed an early breakfast with new trustee Doreen McCall. Doreen is chief counsel, Commonwealth of PA, Historical and Museum Commission. She has offered her help with an alumni event at the state museum next September. We traveled on to Lancaster to meet with Zane Gizzi ’83. It was great connecting with Zane and getting an update on alumni in the Lancaster area. We drove on to Philadelphia and met with Kryste Johnson Ferguson ’99 (spouse: Scott Ferguson ’98). Kryste has offered her help with a young alumni event for the area.

November 19. We enjoyed a morning drive to Williamsport to meet with Robb Dietrich ’99. Robb is sports information director at Lycoming College. He and his wife, Emily Boyle Dietrich ’99, have offered to host a gathering in the Williamsport area.

All in all, we had three terrific days connecting with Eastern PA alumni. We shared Westminster news and they shared great suggestions for future events. Everyone is really looking forward to welcoming Tom and Jean next fall.

Congratulations to the club and president, Lynn Lowry Foltz ’80, on their 100th anniversary celebration.

December 15, 2004, Hilton Head Island, SC. Trustee, Jerry Neff ’54 and his wife Gretchen hosted a Christmas alumni reception at their home.

December 16, 2004, Pittsburgh. I am happy to report that more than 40 Pittsburgh-area alumni and guests attended a reception and performance of The Chief at the O’Reilly Theater…great Westminster fellowship and a great performance.

January 7-12, 2005, 2005 Concert Choir Tour. Special thanks to the Westminster Concert Choir and director Robin Lind for being such wonderful ambassadors for the College! Every performance was outstanding – a tribute to our very talented students! A number of alumni receptions and dinners were held in connection with this year’s tour:

- January 7 – Jean Barthe Strong ’87 hosted an alumni reception at Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Ga., following the concert.
- January 8 – Choir members and special guests were treated to lunch following their participation in morning worship at First Presbyterian Church, Pompano Beach, Fla.
- January 8 – Anne Wimer Wensel ’62 and Mabel Wimer ’64 hosted an alumni dinner before the concert at First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale.
- January 11 – A reception was held at the Indian Shores Community Center following the concert in Vero Beach. The event was hosted by George and Sherry Berlin. George serves as chair of Westminster’s Board of Trustees.
- January 12 – A dinner was held before the concert at Church of the Palms, Sarasota. My thanks to all of our Florida hosts!

January 25, 2005, Pittsburgh. I met with members of the Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee to discuss 2005-2006 events. Committee members attending: Jim Giel ’74, Melissa Ruefle ’98, Leanne Onorato ’98, Becky Rickard ’98, Melissa Wiley ’00, trustee Barbara Braden Guffey ’70 and Rich McKenna ’84. Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication to Westminster!

January 30, 2005, Baltimore/D.C. Gloria Cagigas traveled to Baltimore where she joined alumni from the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area for dinner. More than 20 alumni and guests attended the gathering hosted by Nathan Crozier ’01.

It’s been a very busy fall and winter! I am so excited about the opportunity to make connections with regional alumni volunteers throughout the country. Upcoming trips take me to Erie and the Akron-Canton-Cleveland areas…but that’s just the beginning. Write to me or call me if you are interested in making connections for Westminster in your area. I’d love to hear from you.
Westminster’s Minority Population on the Rise

Strategic goal emphasizing racial diversity becoming a reality

By Patrick S. Broadwater

It took Chantel Lewis three tries to finally find the college that was a good fit for her.

A native of Richmond, Va., Lewis originally elected to continue her education at her hometown school, Virginia Commonwealth University. After a year there, she was off to Virginia Tech, some 200 miles across the state.

If her experience at VCU proved that she didn’t want to attend college so close to home, then Lewis’ stay at Virginia Tech proved that she didn’t like the big university environment. So Lewis called on Dawn Chapman, a Westminster admissions counselor specializing in minority student recruitment. The two had kept in touch since Lewis first visited Westminster as a senior in high school.

“When I first graduated from high school and decided to go to VCU, Dawn told me to keep in touch and let her know how college is going, so I kept in touch,” said Lewis, who is majoring in molecular biology and religion. “I called later and told her that I didn’t like VCU, and she said I should try Westminster. Then when I called and said I didn’t like Virginia Tech. She said again that I should try Westminster. So here I am.”

Lewis is glad she finally heeded Chapman’s advice.

“Everybody here is so nice,” Lewis said. “In Virginia, nobody ever leaves, so it seems like I knew everybody. Here everybody is so different from me. It’s something new. A lot of the people are from Pennsylvania and Ohio, but everybody is different.”

This is Westminster College of the 21st century, where diversity of all stripes – from political thought to geographic background –
– has become a reality. Nowhere is that more evident than in the racial composition of the current student body. Westminster’s minority students make up a modest 4 percent of the enrolled population. But in terms of raw numbers, the College’s 60 minority students is an all-time high and up nearly 150 percent since 1997 when R. Thomas Williamson took over as president and made raising the number of minority students on campus a goal in the College’s strategic plan. Nationwide, minority student enrollment jumped 51.7 percent from 1991-2001, according to the American Council on Education.

“I think it’s enriched all of our lives,” Neal Edman, dean of student affairs, said. “It allows us to experience what diversity is about at what has been a traditionally homogeneous environment. It pushes students to see things different ways, to hear different voices – on both sides. It’s not only a racial enrichment, it’s a worldview enrichment that more closely resembles what like is like outside of our hallowed halls. It brings life to what can be a rather static environment.”

A pioneer in coeducation, and nondiscrimination, Westminster has opened its doors to all qualified students since its beginnings in 1852. According to the College’s first catalog, no student was to be denied admission because of their “color, caste, or sex.” John F. Quarles, who graduated in 1870 and went on to become a famed New York attorney, is believed to be the College’s first black graduate (Please see story, page 21). A number of highly successful black and minority students passed through Westminster in the ensuing years. But in practice, over the next century, there were never enough minorities on campus at one time to reach a critical mass.

That began to change in the 2001-2002 academic year as minority enrollment at the College approached uncharted territory. Not coincidentally, the College brought on board Chapman and Jeannette Hooks, director of diversity services, about that same time.

Chapman, who joined the admissions staff in 2002, focuses on the front end of the equation, the recruiting and admissions process. Hooks, a local pastor active in the community, joined Westminster in 2001 and focuses on serving the needs of minority students once on campus, and, more broadly, helping to shape the institution’s diversity goals.

The forerunner to the Office of Diversity Services, the Office of Minority Affairs, was first introduced in the mid-1990s. When Hooks came on board in 2001, the position was elevated from part-time to full-time, and the office’s title and job description was changed to more accurately represent the goals of the institution. By reaching out beyond the predominately all-white bubble of Westminster and New Wilmington and into surrounding regional communities, the College aimed to generate a more diverse learning environment and create more of a bond between Westminster and areas more heavily populated with minorities.

The College now boasts a college connection program with the Sankey Youth Center in New Castle that provides tutoring to the youths at the Center and also brings them to campus several times per year to experience college life. There’s a three-day Titan Traverse experiential course camp specifically for minority high school students. Hooks has also been instrumental in the establishment of a Western Pennsylvania coalition of diversity directors, bringing together
students and diversity officers from public and private college campuses all over the region for conferences, meetings and symposiums.

Westminster minorities also have the opportunity to explore black history and heritage during educational tours of Williamsburg, Va., and attend leadership conferences, like a recent three-day event in Chicago attended by Hooks and a number of students.

The College, which has had a Diversity Symposium bringing guest speakers to campus for more than 20 years, has continued to provide on-campus programming focusing on racial diversity, and there has been a greater response in celebrations of Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month (Please see sidebar, page 14).

Academically, Westminster has certainly served minorities well. In 2003, the latest data available, Westminster’s black students had a 67 percent graduation rate, far better than the 39 percent graduation rate for blacks nationwide.

“That’s one of the things I attribute our success to, is the diversity office, actually having it here,” Chapman said. “When I interview a minority student, usually one of the first questions is ‘What support services do you have?’ So I talk about our diversity office and set up an interview with Jeannette so she can talk about her office and the things that she does. Once we

Commemorating Black History

A former Washington D.C., policeman, the first black football player at Florida State University, and the music revue “Gospitality” highlighted recent activities at Westminster commemorating black history.

Ken Seamans, a current Wilmington Township supervisor and former Mercer County commissioner, worked several security details for Martin Luther King Jr. in the nation’s capital. Seamans recalled for the Chapel audience his experiences and encounters with racism and the fight for civil rights during his stint as a Washington policeman in the 1960s and ’70s.

J.T. Thomas, a former Pittsburgh Steelers defensive back who played on four Super Bowl teams in the 1970s, grew up in the Deep South in the midst of the civil rights movement. A native of Macon, Ga., he earned a football scholarship to Florida State, where he became the school’s first black football player.

“Gospitality” returned to Westminster for a repeat performance after a three-year absence. The show carries the audience through the history of gospel music.

Among other events co-sponsored by the chapel office and the diversity services office were a gospel choir concert, a birthday cake celebration in the McKelvey Campus Center, and an international day menu at the College dining rooms.
get them on campus, and they see that there is a minority community, they tend to feel more relaxed.”

“Jeannette plays such a big role. She checks up on us – every last one of us – and keeps up on our schoolwork. If we miss a class she knows about it,” Lewis said. “She’s like the backbone of the Black Student Union.”

“If their experiences are good, the College fares better in the long run. They become ambassadors to other minorities,” Edman said. “The bottom line is we want them to be happy here. To succeed and excel here and be excellent alumni. The long-term goal is to continue to keep them in the fold long after they graduate here, and they become role models and mentors. We need that for all of our students.”

In many cases, the students are ambassadors already, aiding in the recruiting process by offering their assessment of the College. When a minority prospective student comes to campus, seeing and hearing from peer minorities on campus tends to have a greater effect on the prospective student than information furnished by an agent of the College. So, the admissions staff has encouraged minorities to join SWAT (Student Westminster Admissions Team) and to participate in events for prospectives such as campus visitation days, overnight visits, or Spring Fling.

“Getting minorities on campus involved in the admissions process has been really helpful,” Chapman said. “Minority students who come to campus for a tour or an interview want to see others. It’s great to say we’ve got a minority community, but if they don’t see them on the forefront, it helps to deter them.

“I can say anything to them, but they want to see students who live here day to day. They tend to believe them more. They know I’m coming from a different perspective.”

Although the College has met its short-term benchmark in terms of minority students on campus, there is still more that can be done. In the works, members of the Black Student Union are investigating setting up chapters of national black fraternities or sororities on campus, while the College administration and faculty is preparing an exchange program with historically black colleges.

“I tell the kids to be involved on campus,” Chapman said. “I’ve spoken to other kids who didn’t really feel at home and I try to articulate to our current minority students, ‘Make it your home. Get involved in an activity or an organization. Then, when you see others, tell them a little more of what Westminster has to offer, so they see that things are changing.’”

As for Lewis, she knew that Chapman was aboard and that there was a support structure in place for a growing segment of the student population. Still she wondered whether her third college would turn out to be the charm.

“That all played a factor, but I still wasn’t sure if I’d like it here or not. But, I said, ‘Well, I’ll give it a try.’ And it feels really good now. Everybody in BSU is really close. Some of my closest friends are here.”

(Broadwater is editor of Westminster Magazine.)
Westminster’s titans helped steer George ‘Tookie’ James toward his date with history

By Patrick S. Broadwater

Beware, Louis James had told his son George back in 1955. If for any reason his football scholarship at Westminster should fall through, the family could not afford to keep him in school.

❖ It wasn’t an idle warning. It was a fact. George “Tookie” James was one of 12 children. His mother, Lillian, passed away when he was just eight years old and he and the other younger siblings were raised by their three oldest sisters. From the age of five Tookie had taken to performing odd jobs around the Beaver Falls neighborhood – feeding chickens, hauling cans, cleaning basements – whatever he could do to rustle up a little extra money.

“My family made do with what little we had,” James said. “Sometimes it was a struggle to see who would get the last biscuit at the dinner table, but we managed to work things out. Sometimes we really didn’t have the meat to go with the gravy, but we could sop biscuits in the gravy and get a full stomach and be able to go on with the day’s activities.”

Frequently, the day’s activities for Tookie included sports. But with no money to spare for equipment, the neighborhood kids had to get by with whatever items they could dig up. They might play football with a tightly rolled newspaper wrapped in string, or play baseball with sticks and a sock stuffed with rags.
By the time Tookie was a senior in high school, he was a standout three-sport athlete (football, basketball and baseball), having inherited his considerable athletic abilities from his father and four older brothers. (Younger brother Harry wasn’t left out, either. He would later be a member of Westminster’s undefeated 1964 football team.) Tookie also happened to be ranked sixth academically in his class of 352. That year, he wore his varsity letterman’s sweater under his commencement gown – partly out of pride in his athletic achievements, partly because he didn’t own a suit. But what to do next? He had already received offers to play professional baseball and was considering a football scholarship at Westminster. Of course, there was always the option of going to work in the mills like so many of his classmates and their fathers, including his own, did.

Ultimately, Tookie chose Westminster, prompting the warning from his father.

“I said, ‘Dad, don’t worry about it. It’ll be all right,’” said James. “I almost swallowed those words the first day I was at Westminster.”

“’Now, now (pronounced Nah, nah...), let me tell you, Tookie, Westminster is a somewhat proud, somewhat selfish institution. If you were to ever manage to score a touchdown, or hit a home run, or score a basket, it would look better in the newspaper – for Westminster – if it referred to one of Westminster’s academic scholars having accomplished that feat. Tookie, what I’m telling you is we just changed the label. You’ll have what Billy White and Harold Davis have – they call it a free ride. You’ll have a free ride here, Tookie. But I want you to know one thing: You don’t have to play one minute of any kind of ball here if you don’t want to.’”

There was just one caveat: Orr insisted that James give up one of the three sports he intended to play. After much deliberation, James dropped basketball for the simple reason that basketball season was the longest of the three.

“He made it clear that receiving the academic scholarship was conditioned upon my not being an all-around athlete. I thought that was fair,” James said.

“And Dr. Orr was right. As time passed by, it became clear to me that what I did in the classroom was what really mattered.”

DROPPING THE BALL

It was his first day of football practice – still two full weeks before classes started – when head coach Harold Burry directed James to the sideline where stood the president of the College, Will W. Orr.

James has told this story so many times each telling becomes a production, complete with choreography, strategic pauses, practiced gestures. The conversation occurred half a century ago and most likely lasted fewer than five minutes, yet James repeatedly makes it come to life in a detailed recreation. For the part of Dr. Orr, James assumes a Southern drawl, practically channeling Orr, a North Carolina native, in word and movement.

“He said to me, ‘You Tookie James?’

I said ‘Yes, sir.’

He said, ‘Tookie, I’m told you’re here on a football scholarship.’

I said ‘Yes, sir.’

‘Well, Tookie, we’ve taken that away from you.’”

Orr quickly recognized the look of despair that registered on James’ face.

““‘Now, now (pronounced Nah, nah...), let me tell you, Tookie, Westminster is a somewhat proud, somewhat selfish institution. If you were to ever manage to score a touchdown, or hit a home run, or score a basket, it would look better in the newspaper – for Westminster – if it referred to one of Westminster’s academic scholars having accomplished that feat. Tookie, what I’m telling you is we just changed the label. You’ll have what Billy White and Harold Davis have – they call it a free ride. You’ll have a free ride here, Tookie. But I want you to know one thing: You don’t have to play one minute of any kind of ball here if you don’t want to.’”

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SURROUNDED BY TITANS

“If I have seen farther than others, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

– Isaac Newton

That first encounter with President Orr was just one of many isolated incidents that may seem innocuous, but when taken together, helped to steer James toward an eventual place in history as the first black judge in Beaver County. James interacted daily with men he considered giants. Men like Orr and Hall of Fame coaches Burry and Buzz Ridl, who were truly titans in their respective spheres of knowledge.

“The caliber of coaches that Burry and Ridl were seemed to parallel the quality of professors that I had at Westminster,” said James. “I’m thinking of Dr. Charles Edwards in political science, Dr. Delber McKee in history, Bible professor Wayne Christy, and German professor Walter Biberich. These were some unusually well-prepared mentors. The quality of training I received athletically and academically at Westminster, I believe is unparalleled.

“Whether it was in football or baseball or in the classroom, it seemed that the instruction was predicated on basic fundamentals. Repetition, repetition, repetition of basic fundamentals.”

James had a special relationship with Orr, the Southern preacher who for eight years served the First United Presbyterian Church right there in Tookie’s hometown of Beaver Falls. Tookie was just a toddler in 1939 when Orr left for a church in Iowa, but they were brought together again 16 years later at Westminster.

“I was very fond of Dr. Orr,” James said. “He meant business and he was a good fund-raiser. He could talk heaps of money out of your hip pocket. I admired him mainly because I recognized that he was a man of God, a holy man. One of my greatest regrets was that I didn’t spend more time with him, listening to him, sitting at his feet and learning more from him about life.”

“The quality of training I received athletically and academically at Westminster, I believe is unparalleled. Whether it was in football or baseball or in the classroom, it seemed that the instruction was predicated on basic fundamentals. Repetition, repetition, repetition of basic fundamentals.”

– George “Tookie” James

The two got along famously. Orr had lined up a job in New Wilmington for James after his freshman year (James declined), and when James’ father died during his sophomore year and several weeks had passed without Tookie returning to school, it was Orr who drove down to Beaver Falls and convinced him to continue his education.

“He didn’t call me or nothing,” James said. “He found out where I lived and he told me, ‘Tookie, I’m not asking you to come back to Westminster, I’m telling you! You’ll be of more value to your family
“At the time, I knew I was in a special atmosphere,” James said. “Sometimes, now, I almost have to pinch myself. Did these things really happen? Was I really there? It just seems like I was in a wonderland of activities and learning and growth. Looking back, I was just surrounded by so many real giants.”

Even Westminster alumni figured prominently. James most likely never would have ended up at Westminster if it had not been for Vic Taylor, a Beaver Falls grade-school teacher and 1950 Westminster grad. There wasn’t as much recruiting of athletes during those days. But Taylor, who had been a lineman on the Westminster football team, introduced himself to James one night after a high school basketball game and offered to take Tookie on a visit to his alma mater.

“So he took me up there one day and introduced me to Coach Burry,” James said.

DIVINE INTERVENTION

Moments like that – the appearance of a total stranger willing to match Tookie up with Westminster where waited a president, faculty and staff who would have such a vested interest in his academic, athletic and personal lives – have convinced James that he is part of a divine plan predetermined for him by God long ago. Too many events in his life lead to that inevitable conclusion, even if it didn’t seem that way at the time. It’s as if God had moved him and others around like pieces on a chessboard, preparing and finally positioning Tookie for his pinnacle moment. What seemed at the time to be random, now made perfect sense.

“I may not have been consciously aware of it, but I became aware in later life that my life was being orchestrated by divine power,” James said. “I believe God has engineered my life from an early age, up to and including the present day. The events that have unfolded in my life defy logic. They defy planning. They are unusual and extraordinary to the extent that the only real answer is divine intervention.”

Take James’ decision to attend law school. The very thought of law school hadn’t appeared in his mind until halfway through his senior year. He majored in political science with an eye on becoming a teacher and maybe a coach. Then, while researching his senior paper, “The Rise of The Common Law,” the light went on and the idea of attending law school was born.

“There was immediate clarity,” James said. “As soon as the thought came into my mind, there was no debate, no analysis. It was though I knew I was going to pursue it. How it was going to materialize, I did not have the answer.”

The biggest unanswered question: How does one attend law school for $500, the sum total of James’ savings? James proved more than capable. One of only two blacks in his class (as he had been at Westminster), James finished his first year of law school ranked in the top 15 academically, earning a spot in the honorary society known as Law Review. He graduated in the

getting an education than going now and getting a job in the steel mill. I know what’s on your mind, but you come back to Westminster where you belong.’ Take Dr. Orr out of my life and I just may not have returned to Westminster.”

On graduation day, Orr made it a habit of planting a congratulatory kiss on the female honor graduates. When Tookie’s name was called cum laude, Orr handed James his diploma, pulled him close, and looked into his eyes. He said, “Tookie, I would kiss you if you weren’t so dern ugly!”

James, who was later inducted into the Titan Sports Hall of Fame, drew inspiration from his classmates and teammates as well. A two-year co-captain on the football team, he played in an all-black backfield with Davis, White and Willie Davis behind an all-white front seven, a virtually unheard of coupling in the 1950s, and he was a four-year starter at catcher for the baseball team. Besides his backfield mates, he named Bill Freshwater, Bill Moss, Vince Cortese, Perry Kirklin, Ben Brenner, Bill McConnell, Al King, Joe Fusco, Jack Barnes, Glenn Smith, Jim Dewar, Regis Onderick, Jack Bestwick, Gib Lewis and Fred Wilkes as some of the Titans – and little-t titans – with whom he had the privilege of sharing the gridiron and diamond.

Three cornerstones of the House that Burry Built: Bill “Whizzer” White, Harold Davis and George “Tookie” James reunited on campus on Sept. 18 during the campus salute to Davis, who was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame a month earlier.
required three years and passed the bar exam on his first attempt.

He began the private practice of law in 1963, served six months active duty with the U.S Army National Guard, and then resumed law practice until becoming a judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County on Dec. 22, 1998.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE PAYS OFF**

George “Tookie” James had nothing to prove. He had been an attorney for 35 years in Beaver Falls, serving at various times as assistant district attorney, assistant county solicitor, and attorney for the coroner’s office, the controller’s office, and the sheriff’s office. But when he learned in 1997 that an election would be held for a new judicial seat in his home county, the thought of running embedded itself in his mind.

He entered the race a complete novice. He had never run for anything before and wasn’t involved in local politics. Still, out of over 35,000 votes cast for 11 candidates, Tookie finished second by 92 votes on the Democratic ballot, and second by roughly 1,000 votes on the Republican ballot.

James gives partial credit to his success on the ballot to the logo of a dove carrying an olive branch that he used on his campaign literature. He also credits a rousing nominating meeting speech, where he invented what he called a nonsense slogan – Invest in ITT – that unbeknownst to James made quite a bit of sense to those following the stock market.

“Tookie was actually a company,” James said. “I just used those letters in my speech as a way of pointing out all the politicians who had ‘invested’ in me over the years. I said, ‘What I’m asking you folks to do tonight is invest in ITT – It’s Tookie’s Turn!’ And they latched on to that thing.”

James had made such a name for himself that when a Common Pleas judge hit the mandatory retirement age the next year, James, a Democrat, was appointed to the seat by Republican Gov. Tom Ridge. Tookie James, the kid from the Mount Washington section of Beaver Falls, had just become the first black to be named judge in the more than 200-year history of Beaver County. In 1999, the next general election following the appointment, James had to run to keep his seat.

Exactly 10 fewer candidates entered the race this time, meaning that Tookie’s subsequent turn as the highest-ranking elected black in county history was unopposed.

“It’s humbling to realize that I end up being that historical figure,” James said. “I just goes to show that God can make something out of nothing. It’s as plain as that. All the planning, the scheming, the striving that man can do would not have achieved that.”

James had met his wife of 42 years, Marian Regina Richardson at Westminster. She was still a high school student at the time who happened to be on campus to watch her Wampum’s boys basketball team in a playoff game at Memorial Field House. Their union has produced three daughters, three sons-in-law, and five grandchildren, whose pictures occupy prominent locations in James’ chambers.

From academics and athletics to matrimony and politics, Westminster is the thread linking it all in James’ life.

“A longtime attorney in Beaver Falls, James was appointed judge in 1998. A year later he won the general election for the seat, becoming the highest-ranking black elected official in Beaver County’s more than 200-year history.

Without question, everything crystallized at Westminster,” James said. “It was at Westminster where I got the training, the education I had. It was at Westminster it was revealed to me to go to law school. I met my wife down at the bottom of the hill that goes up to Russell Hall. You strip or remove Westminster from my life, where am I?”

James fails to answer his own question. Has he ever followed that last thought to its logical conclusion? He shifts uncomfortably in his chair. He has been speaking now for over an hour.

“I dare not. I dare not. No Westminster? I just would not want to think what life may have held for me,” James said. “That was the turning point. That was the potter’s wheel – where everything began to take the shape that I’m convinced the Lord prepared for me before I cried in this world.”

(Broadwater is editor of Westminster Magazine.)
In the aftermath of the War Between the States, American society underwent a considerable change, not only in the South but in the entire country. Suddenly, there were large numbers of illiterate, destitute former slaves who had no place to live, limited job opportunities and were ill-prepared to utilize the freedoms they had recently been granted. It was obvious that, in order to compete in a “white man’s world,” they must become educated in the basic elements of reading, writing and mathematics.

To meet this need, the Freedman’s Bureau (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands) was a federal agency created by Congress in the post-war Reconstruction period to provide some assistance to freedmen. A few enlightened slave owners, as well as private groups and churches also established “schools” for slaves in the South both before and after the war. For example, a school was operated in Selma, Ala., as early as the 1840s by a Northern body, the Reformed Presbyterians. Some of this group also formed a school, Geneva Hall (later to become Geneva College), in 1842 in Northwood, Ohio, that brought talented young blacks to the college for advanced education. One of these exceptional persons was John F. Quarles, a mulatto who had impressed his former owner with his abilities and was allowed to teach younger slave children to read and write. Among those children were Henry Ossian Flipper and his younger brother. Later, Flipper was to become the first graduate of color from the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) and the focus of a “cause celebre” a few years later. But it is the remarkable John F. Quarles who is the center of our interest here.

Quarles was born a slave in Blacksburg, Va., April 8, 1846, but reared in Atlanta, Ga., the son of the Rev. Frank Quarles, pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church. It is not clear how he came to read and write, but he was a favorite of his Georgia owners, Ephraim and Ellen Ponder; his father was also owned by the Ponders. Mrs. Ponder was something of a character and usually did what she wanted to regardless of law or

Wherever he went, Quarles impressed people with his abilities as a speaker and scholar. The following story from the Westminster student newspaper, the Holcad, is indicative of his quick wit.

“Dr. Browne [president of the College] described him as ‘a bright mulatto,’ and on that point turned the story he told me of the young man’s ready repartee. In his turn he gave a speech in the ‘morning hall.’ It was a good one and well delivered, and the Doctor in remarking on it before all said, ‘That was an excellent speech, Mr. Quarles, a credit to your race.’ ‘Which one?’ he responded instantly.”

Following graduation from Westminster in 1870, Quarles lived in Atlanta with an address of St. Th. R.P. Church. One source reports that Quarles attended Allegheny Seminary, but the dates are in error. According to a history of Geneva College, he taught school in Atlanta for two years. He did read for the law under the direction of professor John M. Langston of Washington, D.C., and was admitted to the bar in Augusta, Ga., the first black to be admitted to practice law in that state. His obituary has him studying law in the office of Charles Sumner in Washington, D.C.; one source says he attended Howard University, perhaps with the Professor Langston mentioned earlier. Senator Sumner is thought to have sponsored Quarles to President Ulysses Grant, for an appointment, judging from subsequent events. Incidentally, Langston was one of the first administrators of the Freedmen’s Bureau.

In 1874, Quarles was appointed by Grant as consul to Port Mahan on the Barbary Coast. While in Port Mahan, Quarles was married to Marie Jacquemimot, daughter of the French consul there, and granddaughter of Napoleon’s general of that name. Upon the election of Rutherford B. Hayes as president, Quarles survived the usual political purge and, in 1877, was appointed as consul to Malaga, Spain, a more important post than Port Mahan.

For whatever reason, Quarles resigned his diplomatic position in 1880 and moved to New York City to practice law. His admittance to the bar was sponsored by Algernon Sullivan. He was the first black to be admitted to the New York bar and quickly became well-known and respected. He soon became involved in Republican politics, and in the Republican presidential primary of 1880, Quarles supported James Blaine in opposition to James Garfield who won the nomination; he later supported Blaine in his senatorial campaign. Quarles also became involved in the publishing of a newspaper that emphasized black news and concerns. He helped to found the New York Globe along with T. Thomas Fortune, who became well-known as a militant black journalist. The Globe was one of a number of black newspapers that sprang up after the Civil War, mostly in Northern cities. Many of these papers disappeared after a few years; the Globe managed to run from about July 1881 to November 1884.

As a lawyer, Quarles took on cases that were highly publicized. One of these involved the expulsion of a black cadet, Johnson C. Whittaker, from West Point. These cases followed that of Henry O. Flipper, the first black cadet to graduate from West Point and who had been dismissed from the Army for “conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.” It is known that Flipper appealed to Quarles for help but received none; no explanation has yet been unearthed for this unexpected behavior. He also took unpopular cases in which the defendants were blacks charged with murder or other serious crimes. Quarles must have been a highly regarded lawyer and apparently became well-off financially. He is reported to have had the largest and best law library on Long Island at one time.

Regarding his wife and children, little is known except that he had a home in Flushing, Long Island. He died rather suddenly Jan. 28, 1885, from pneumonia. He was not yet 40 years old. One wonders what he might have accomplished had he lived the normal span of years. He was a candle that burned brightly but too briefly.

(Note: Most of the information in this article was provided by Thomas D. Phillips of Raymond, Miss., whose primary interest is Henry Ossian Flipper, the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. Other important information was provided by David M. Carson, professor of history emeritus, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa.)
48 William Mowry has relocated to Kennesaw, Ga.

51 Ralph Stevens has retired. He and his wife, Nancy Henderson Stevens ’50, reside in Colfax, N.C.

54 Elizabeth Cruot Eckhardt is a certified substance abuse counselor at Riverside Hospital. She lives in Hampton, Va.

55 Royal Kemper is minister for older adults at Abington Presbyterian Church. Roy and his wife, Mary, live in Langhorne.

56 Clarissa Fuller of Lowell, Ind., is semi-retired from her financial planning firm. She has started a new business as a reflexologist, healing therapies through reflexes on the hands and feet.

58 Floy Artman Moreira of New Wilmington is the director of the Shenango Valley Senior Community Center in Hermitage. She was named a 2004 Buhl Day honoree for her work at the Center and in the community. Her extensive résumé includes having served as a teacher in Egypt, a librarian in New York City and a substitute teacher in the Wilmington Area School District.

61 The Rev. Allen Foster Jr. has retired as senior minister at Southminster Presbyterian Church. His wife, Miriam Morris Foster, has retired as a special needs teacher at Parkway Yo-Tech School. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

Sue Figley Klein lives in Locust Valley, N.Y., where she has retired as a teacher in the Locust Valley Central School District.

Raymond Dombrowski has retired after 55 years in education. He spent 40 years in K-12 public education, retiring as superintendent of schools for the city of Erie; and served 15 years as dean of the Institute for Research and Community Development, professor, and program head for the school administration programs at Edinboro University.

William Repack, professor of management and marketing at Robert Morris University, was named Franchise Development Person of the Year 2004 by Franchise Solutions Corp. Bill is president and founder of Franchise Specialists, Inc., a franchise development consulting company. He and his wife, Diana, reside in Moon Township.

62 Robert Forsberg and his wife, Jean, make their home in Julian. Robert is self-employed in various fields.

Douglas Henderson took over Beverly Bemiss Walz’s ’58 seat at the bridge table in the student union in 1959. In the fall of 2004, Doug became an ACBL life master. Doug and his family live in Cleveland.

Bernard Markovitz, federal bankruptcy judge in the western district of Pennsylvania, has retired from the bench but is still serving in a recall capacity. He and his wife, Anne Dalae Markovitz ’64, live in Pittsburgh.

63 The Rev. Terry Stoops has retired after 39 years as a minister in the Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Janet, are residents of Gibsonia, where Terry is serving as a supply minister and enjoying retirement.

Elizabeth Thompson Cairns is a part-time receptionist for the Presbytery of Chicago. Her husband, the Rev. John Cairns ’61, is dean of academy, faith and life at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

64 Sara Cullings Morrison, a business process analyst with United Space Alliance, was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Medal by the Honorable Sean O’Keefe, administrator. The award is the highest honor NASA bestows upon non-government employees. Sara received the recognition for her contribution to the Columbia investigation. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Malabar, Fla.

Sanford Dalglish of McDonald has retired.

Craig Fetters has retired as vice president/credit analysis manager at Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. He and his wife, Linda Wood Fetters ’65, make their home in Mercer Island, Wash.

Carole Foti Miller has retired from Grove City Senior High School, where she taught French and Spanish. She and her husband, Jack, live in Hermitage.

Jane Kelso Greenberg has retired after 26 years of teaching, the past 21 as a first-grade teacher at Emma Havens Young Elementary School in Bricktown, N.J. She now lists her occupation as “endless summer.” Jane and her husband, Scott, live in Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

66 June Fry McQuide is the executive director at University Heights Association, an education consortium in Albany, N.Y. She and her husband, Stephen, have recently moved to Voorheesville, N.Y.

Barbara Way Mohr is a clinical/school social worker with Intermediate District #287, which serves special education students in the surrounding county. Barbara lives in Minneapolis.

67 Dr. Biagio Vericella is dean emeritus, School of Allied Health Sciences at the Medical College of Georgia. He is employed part-time with Area Health Education Centers, helping medical practitioners consider rural Georgia for their practice. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, make their home in Augusta, Ga.

Donald Saunders has retired as headmaster at Episcopal Day School in Southern Pines, N.C. Donn and his wife, Mary Lou, have relocated to Pinehurst, N.C.

Thomas Tompkins is a services sales executive with Hewlett Packard Corporation. He and his wife, Marjorie Starrett Tompkins ’69, live in Chatham, N.J., where Marjorie is partner and chief operating officer at Town & Country Properties, a real estate agency.

Jim Turner has been elected to the board of the American Society for Testing and Materials.

69 The Rev. Ed Babinsky is pastor of the Rollstone Congregational Church in Fitchburg, Mass. He competed in his first Boston Marathon in 2004 and is preparing for the 2005 race.

70 Karl Kennedy has retired as a teacher at North Allegheny Senior High School. He is employed part-time as a quality control programmer/analyst in the research lab at Kopp Glass, Inc., a glass manufacturer for transportation lighting applications. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Valencia.

Martha Schreiner Dreisbach and her husband, Bruce, live in Merscuregus, where Martie is a Title I reading teacher, grades K-3, in the Tuscarora School District. In addition, she is a literacy consultant with Read, Write Now.

71 Emily Annecillo Kwolek is an art teacher at Intensive Education Academy, Inc. She makes her home in Vernon, Conn.

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Nancy Heilman Kichak, deputy associate director for workforce planning and policy analysis and chief actuary in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, has been elected president of the Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club. She has also been awarded the rank of Distinguished Executive by President George W. Bush for her service to the federal government.

72 Timothy Beal is executive pastor at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church. His wife, Cherie Sanderson Beal ’89, is communications manager at Wells Fargo Bank. Tim and Cherie reside in San Diego. Susan Wissolik James and her husband, Richard, make their home in Canton, Mass., where Susan is an editorial project manager at Houghton Mifflin Co.

73 Leslie Brooks Smith and her husband, Russell, live in Pittsburgh, where Leslie is a registered nurse at UPMC. Thomas Campbell and his wife, Sharon, live in New Wilmington, where Tom is employed in sales and marketing with JEEEMCO Inc., a general construction firm.

The Rev. John Hopkins is director of pastoral care and candidate ministry for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. He travels the world to recruit and train pastors for missionaries of the association.

Debi Malcomson is a realtor with RE/MAX of Stuart, Fla. John Snizek Jr. and his wife, Deborah, reside in Lynchburg, Va., where John is CEO of Johnson Health Center.

74 David Finney has been selected to become the seventh president of Champlain College in Burlington, Vt. For the past 20 years he has served in several capacities at New York University, including admissions, financial aid, enrollment services, advertising and publications.

75 James Lowry is senior vice president, district sales manager with American Home Mortgage. Jim and his wife, Anna, live in Mooresville, N.C.

76 Pamela Bercaw Gibson and her husband, Tim, live in Cincinnati, where Pamela is account group director at Freidan, Gibson & White, Inc., an advertising agency.

Gail Boberg Hall and her husband, David Hall, live in West Hartford, Conn. Gail is president of Actex Publications, and Dave is self-employed in Web site production.

The Rev. Robert Funk and his wife, Florence, reside in Grand Rapids, Mich., where Bob is pastor and head of staff at Cross Community Church. Richard Gmerek is a lawyer and partner with Wolf Block Government Relations, L.P., a government relations and lobby firm in Harrisburg. Dick and his wife, Denise, make their home in Hummelstown.

John Paul Johnson is director of choral activities at the University of Kansas and was featured in an article about the Holiday Vesper service. He and his wife, Ann Eckhart Johnson, and their daughter moved to Kansas from Texas three years ago so that John Paul could realize his dream of teaching at the university.

Leah Kissick is a professor of special education at East Stroudsburg University.

Bonnie Malcolm Chizmadia and her husband, Tom, have relocated to Northborough, Mass. Bonnie is self-employed as a personal trainer.

Arthur Shedden, his wife Becky, and their two sons live in Warren, N.J. Arthur is vice president of global medical affairs–respiratory at Schering-Plough.

James Tyler is a clinical audiologist and owner of Delaware Hearing Consultants. He and his wife, Donna, live in Newark, Del.

77 Barry Skiles is a civil engineer with Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He and his wife, Faith, and their four children live in Pilot, Va.

Lynne Turner of Chesterfield, Va., is a human resources system consultant with Bon Secours Health System, a Catholic health care system in Mariottsville, Md.

78 Douglas Bosnik, his wife, Kyra, and their two children live in Akron, Ohio, where Doug is executive vice president of Buckeye Corrugated Inc., a packaging manufacturer.

Janet Morrow Pate is living in Pristhina, Kosovo, as the project director/returns with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. She is working with Serbian families returning to the village of
Bablak, and the Albanians who will receive them. The project includes a construction component (rebuilding homes) and a social program involving conflict resolution and community building.

80 Barb Briggs of Pittsburgh is the executive assistant to the CEO of Health Source Associates.


Kathleen Sullivan was named the Mechanicsburg Area Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2003.

82 Dr. Alan King and his wife, Chinyere, live in Sarasota, Fla. Alan is an internist and pediatrician in a private practice and enjoys competitive distance running.

Linda Snyder received her doctorate in public health from the University of Pittsburgh. She lives in New Castle and is the director of strategic marketing with the Family Health Council.

83 Philip Petraglia has joined the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse as its controller.

84 Dr. Robert Cain of Centerville, Ohio, received national recognition from the American College of Osteopathic Internists as the 2004 Teacher of the Year.

Katherine Fishburn Miller received her grade 1-8 teaching license with an emphasis in history from Carthage College. She is the office and program coordinator with Covenant Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, Dan Miller ’83, and their two sons live in Racine, Wis.

Joseph Juliano has moved to Alpharetta, Ga., with his wife, Patricia, and two sons. Joe is senior vice president, sales and commercial services with Ariba, Inc.

John Klein of Sagamore Hills, Ohio, has been promoted to director, clinical services with DATATRAK International, Inc.

William Knight Jr. is president of United Ford, a retail automotive firm. Bill and his wife, Rozann, and their two children live in Tulsa, Okla.

Eric MacDonald earned his Ed.D. in reading/language arts from Widener University in Chester. He is a teacher at Benchmark School in Media.

Luke Stollings has left Electronic Data Systems to become a bilingual (English/Spanish) fifth-grade teacher. He continues rock climbing and is fulfilling a childhood dream by building a tree house for himself. He and his wife, Joy, live in Austin, Texas.

85 Randy Conti of Pittsburgh is key account sales executive to department stores, East Coast manager with Report Footwear.

Roger Ferrante is assistant vice president of corporate banking with First Place Bank. He and his wife, Tracy, and their two children have moved to Boardman, Ohio.

Larre Schoolmeesters is on the nursing faculty at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh and has recently published “Techniques to Improve Database Searching” in *Internet for Nursing Research: A Guide to Strategies, Skills, and Resources*.

86 Joseph Ambrosini is the business manager for the New Castle Area School District. He and his wife, Amy, and their three children live in New Castle. (See also New Additions.)

Joseph DiThomas is a real estate broker with DiThomas Properties in New York City.

Tracy Stuck is director of Ohio Union, the student union at Ohio State University. She recently was honored by Columbus Business First in their Forty Under 40 feature recognizing energetic and enterprising young adults from the central Ohio business community.

90 Michael McDaniel of Gilbert, Ariz., has been promoted to regional business director for Bausch & Lomb Pharmaceutical.

Daniel Fiorito has been named head of information evaluation for chemical demilitarization by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. He is stationed in The Hague.

Darren Guido is a principal in the Capital School District. He and his wife, Patty Petrini Guido ’90, live in Dover, Del., with their daughter.

Tammy Ament Mrozek is a guidance counselor in the Bloomsburg Area High School. She lives in Bloomsburg with her husband, Todd, and their two children.

92 Meredith Ball is a professor and soccer coach at the University of Maine in Orono. He and his wife, Heather, have moved to Hampden, Maine.

Diane Hoffman of Astoria, N.Y., is director of publications at New World Health, a medical education firm in New York City.

Robert Lewis is assistant vice president at The Kline Group in Wexford. Chip and his wife, Jennifer, live in Pittsburgh.

93 Kathleen Blewett Meeks is an aide at Highland Preschool in New Castle, where she lives with her husband, Bobby, and two children.

Christopher Madeline is a major in the Marine Corps. He is completing his MBA at the Naval Postgraduate School. He resides in Monterey, Calif., with his wife, Stephanie, and three children.

Alecia McKee of Valencia has been promoted to controller at DVD Empire.com, an Internet retailer in Warrendale.

Thomas Spiker of New Orleans is a flight attendant with Southwest Airlines.

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Kenneth Trovinger Jr. and his wife, Tonia Trickett Trovinger, live in New Holland, where Ken is a scan coordinator at Yoder’s Country Market, and director of worship ministries at Lititz Church of the Brethren; Tonia is a reading teacher in the Eastern Lancaster County School District.

Allison Urra DiMarco is self-employed as a Creative Memories consultant. She and her husband, Richard, live in Rochester, N.Y.

Lisa Wallace Brown is employed in sales at Duramed Pharmaceuticals. She and her husband, Kris, and three children live in Flower Mound, Texas.

94 Theodore Bair Jr. received his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a senior portfolio manager at Standish Mellon Asset Management in Pittsburgh. Ted lives in McDonald with his wife, Kari Matchett Bair ’94 and the couple’s two children. (See also New Additions.)

Darrell Hess is real estate coordinator at The Wet Seal, Inc., a real estate office in Pittsburgh.

John Junkin has retired from Verizon, and is a training administrator with Volt Services Group. He and his wife, Cindy, reside in Bessemer.

Matt Raich, coaching assistant with the Pittsburgh Steelers, was named to the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame.

Christina Sherman received her master’s in education from Miami University. She lives in Cincinnati, where she is a school improvement consultant with the Hamilton County Educational Service Center.

Danell Shidemantle is music director at East Main Presbyterian Church in Grove City. Dani lives in Grove City with her husband, Rob, and their two children.

Matthew Sofran is a high school math teacher and football coach in the Greensburg Salem School District. Matt, his wife, Kristin Hollerich Sofran ’96, and their two children reside in Pittsburgh.

95 James Hughey is employed by O&G Industries, Inc., a construction management firm. James now lives in Bristol, Conn.

Jeffrey Modrak is president of Premier Technology Systems, LLC, a structured cabling contracting firm. Jeff makes his home in Canonsburg.

Richard Roda is corporate counsel for Mine Safety Appliances Company in Pittsburgh. Rick, his wife Jill, and their daughter have moved to Valencia.

Theodore Saad is an attorney with Verterano & Manolis. He and his wife, Tammy, and their two children make their home in New Castle. (See also New Additions.)

96 Kirk Bloomberg has been promoted to mill marketing manager with US Steel. He and his wife, Mindy Readshaw Bloomberg, have relocated to Pittsburgh.

Jennifer Cook Langlotz is an elementary music specialist in the Cherry Creek Schools. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Broomfield, Colo.

Justin Harrison is a development instructor for Humana People to People, a division of the Institute for International Cooperation and Development. He is stationed in Botswana to oversee an AIDS education program.

Michael McQuaide is in Phuket, Thailand, teaching English as a second language, and participating in opening a tour boat company.

Garth Patterson is founder of Griffin Analytical Technologies, a scientific instrumentation firm. His wife, Michelle Wick Patterson ’95, received her Ph.D. from Purdue University and is a professor there. The couple lives in Brookston, Ind.

97 Kelly Augustine of Cranberry Township is a community development specialist for Congresswoman Melissa Hart. Melinda Bell is a development specialist with adolescent partial programs at UPMC in Pittsburgh.

Kimberly Levandosky accepted a position as account manager with Bio-Rad Laboratories and has relocated to Lexington, Ky.

Kimberly McCaskey Lee is a psychotherapist at UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Kim and her husband, Dr. Philip Lee, reside in Pittsburgh.

Veronica Pechart Byers is a third-grade teacher in the Peters Township School District. Her husband, Sean Byers is employed by Danka. The couple lives in Bethel Park with their daughter.

Anthony Pizon completed his residency in emergency medicine at UPMC Health Center in Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Caryn Mehalik Pizon ’96, and their son have moved to Phoenix, where Tony is a toxicology fellow with Banner Health Systems. (See also New Additions.)

Jennifer Sarbo Less and her husband, Brian, live in New Castle, where Jennifer is a teacher in the George Washington Intermediate School.

Ann Shaw of Chicago is a speech language pathologist in Franklin Park School District 84.

98 Charlie Burtyk of Pittsburgh is a software engineer with Sensus Metering Systems, Inc.

Dawn Klingsensmith Perna received her MBA from the University of Pittsburgh’s Katz School of Business. She is a corporate financial consultant with Deloitte in Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Ben Perna ’96, reside in Monroeville. (See also Marriages.)

Jennifer Webb Motzer is standards and strategic plan liaison for Great Valley School District in Malvern.

99 Michael Aey is plant manager at Smurfit-stone, a recycling firm. His wife, Mary Haug Aey ’02, is a substitute teacher in the Gahanna-Jefferson School District. The couple resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Danae Brentzel-Martina received her master’s from Duquesne University, and is an English teacher at Penn-Trafford High School. Her husband, Shawn Martina ’01, is an accountant, financial transactions and research with Allegheny Energy. Danae and Shawn now live in Irwin.

Laurie Chamberlin Berry is a full-time MBA candidate at Villanova University. Her husband, Matthew Berry ’96, is a technical analyst with SAP America, a software firm in Newtown Square. The couple resides in Broomall.
Steve Davies of Pittsburgh is a team leader in private wealth management with Mellon Financial Corporation.

Jennifer Kitterman received her reading specialist certification from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a first-grade teacher at Armel Elementary School in Winchester, Va.

Kristin Martinis Seyerle is a systems analyst with Eaton/Cutler-Hammer. She and her husband, Jason, live in South Park.

Bethany Peters received her master’s in communication science and disorders from the University of Pittsburgh and has moved to Ocala, Fla. She is a speech-language pathologist with Special Communications, a therapy facility in Gainesville, Fla.

Jenny Shiffer Gross is director of marketing at Steelcoast Creative in Pittsburgh.

Jeremy Stewart and his wife, Annie, live in Erie, where Jeremy is a data entry analyst at Alltel Publishing.

Kerry Barker Jones received her master’s of arts in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University. She is director of residence life at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio.

Jennifer Bennett has moved to Connellsville. She is a watershed technician with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in Blairsville.

Nora Drake Saeler received her master’s of music from the University of Texas at Austin, and is an opera singer/recitalist. Her husband, Ryan Saeler ‘02, is a board operator with Infinity Broadcasting. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

Meghan Duda Corbin has been promoted to manager of media relations at Hamot Health Foundation in Erie.

Wendy Hamilton Snodgrass received her master’s of education from California University of Pennsylvania and is a substitute teacher. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Cortland, Ohio. (See also Marriages.)

Steven Irvine is an applications developer at US Steel Corporation.

Melanie Layton Collins is assistant director at KinderCare Learning Center in Hudson, Ohio. She and her husband, Ryan, and their son have moved to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, from Florida.

John Picciano lives in Greensburg, where he was promoted to forensic scientist in the Pennsylvania State Police DNA laboratory.

Seth Rice passed the Pennsylvania bar exam and is an attorney with Babst, Calland, Clements, Zonnir, PC in Pittsburgh.

Stefanie Aiello of Rochester, N.Y., received a degree in biological sciences from the University at Buffalo.

Beth Chupak Scherm is a fifth-grade teacher at Washington District Elementary School. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Montross, Va.

Diane Henderson Schaupp received a bachelor’s in engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and is employed as a mechanical engineer. She and her husband, Mark, make their home in Pittsburgh.

Rachel Jednak has moved to Harrisburg. She is staffing manager at Robert Half International, a specialized temporary staffing service for administrative professionals.

Heidi Langdon Short and her husband, Derek, live in Clearfield, where Heidi is youth minister at the Presbyterian Church.

Stephanie Morris of Akron, Ohio, is a human resources generalist at Doctor’s Hospital of Stark County.

Philip Neel is a customer accounts manager at Aaron’s Sales and Lease, a rental store with purchase options in New Castle.

Nicole Quahliero lives in New Castle, where she is a first-grade teacher at West Side Primary Center.

Tara Severin of Gibsonia is a program leader with KinderCare Corporation.

Molly Weaver received her master’s in popular culture studies from Bowling Green University. She is employed with the educational programming department at the Mattress Factory Museum on Pittsburgh’s North Side.

Glynnis Armagost of Emmaus is a project assistant at Creative Graphics, Inc., a book typesetting company in Allentown.

Melissa Batulis of Elmira, N.Y., is a general assignment reporter at WENY-TV ABC 36.

Emily Deah is an actuarial analyst with Dunbar Bendar & Zapf Inc., consultants for pensions and 401Ks in Pittsburgh.

Elizabeth Dougherty is a research associate and graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh. She has moved to North Huntingdon.

Courtney Hamilton is office manager at Custom Stone & Tile, a stone fabrication firm in Hermitage owned by Eric Graven ‘78 and his wife, Barbara Russell Graven ‘78.

Megan Ruelie is a research technician at Magee-Women’s Research Institute and UPMC.

Tatum Tuschak is a first-grade teacher at St. Rosalia Academy in Pittsburgh.

Christina Waszczak Douglass is an archives assistant at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. She and her husband, Dan, make their home in Fairborn, Ohio.

Kara Benedict has been promoted to corporate banking officer at National City Bank of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh.

Cherie Harman Andrews is a second-grade teacher in the Mohawk Area School District in Bessmer. She and her husband, Marty, live in Mount Jackson.

Julien Irvine received her master’s in occupational therapy from Chatham College and is an occupational therapist for Early Intervention Specialists.

Kelly Schrenker of McKees Rocks received her master’s in human resource management from St. Francis University and is a benefits administrator at EBIDS.

Nicole Snyder received her Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. She and her husband, Chris, live in Willington, Conn.

Lynn Zolkowski Zdinak is a teacher in the Hampton School District. She and her husband, Michael, make their home in Pittsburgh.
Marriages


76 Kenneth Behr and Elizabeth Fathergill. Nov. 20, 2004. The couple lives in New Castle, where Ken is the owner of Portage Motor Sales.


91 Tami Ball and Edward Ferrari. June 26, 2004, on board the Adventure Hornblower yacht in San Diego. Alumni in attendance were Lori Schusser Lindner, Jeff Line ’90, Kristin Young Line, and Paul Lawson ’92. The couple resides in San Diego, where Tami is a therapist with San Diego County.


98 Dawn Klingensmith and Benjamin Perna ’96. Oct. 28, 2004. (See also Class Notes.)

Campbell Lucchino and Kristin Keller were bridesmaids. Christine is a reading specialist for the Moon Area School District. The couple lives in Cranberry.

Dawn Planic and Matthew Gullifer. April 27, 2002. The couple and their daughter live in Newport, R.I., where Dawn is a sales representative with Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. (See also New Additions.)


99 Amy Black and Tony Meadows. Oct. 16, 2004, at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. Bryan Black ’96 was a participant. In attendance were Andrea Snyder ’86, Steve Davies, Leigh Forejt ’00, Jill Heden Terpstra, and Erin Heasley. The couple lives in Harrisburg, where Amy is senior production planner with Primedia.

00 Beth Alexander and Adrian Markovic. Sept. 4, 2004, in Cleveland. The couple lives in Miami, Fla., where Beth is pursuing a master’s in English literature.

Jacolyn Syka and Thomas Majure III. June 5, 2004, in Wallace Memorial Chapel. Participating alumnae were maid of honor Laura Dailey and matron of honor Jennifer Bryan-DePaul. The couple resides in Mercer.


Wendy Hamilton and Jeff Snodgrass. July 17, 2004. (See also Class Notes.)


Lisa Raidel and Karl Devlin. Sept. 4, 2004, at Mahoning United Methodist Church in Youngstown, Ohio. Participants included Christina Ingold, Anita McCandless, and Andrew Huston ’04. Attending was Sarah Malanowsky. Lisa is a sales associate with Home Savings and Loan in Niles, Ohio. The couple lives in Austintown, Ohio.
Heidi Vogt and Craig Dylewski, July 17, 2004. The couple lives in Erie County, where Heidi is a juvenile probation officer with Erie County.

Jessica Borchart and David Field ’02, Oct. 30, 2004, in Wallace Memorial Chapel. Alumna in the wedding party were bridesmaid Samantha O’Toole, groomsman Rodolfo Sant Anna, and father of the groom Donald Field ’66. Several Westminster alumni and faculty members were also in attendance. Jessica is a geographic business analyst for Intel Corporation. David is an account representative for DHL Express. The couple resides in Folsom, Calif.

Erika Hink and John Vansovich, Feb. 21, 2004, at SS Philip and James Church in New Castle. (See also New Additions.)

New Additions

87 Kris Bollinger Uher and her husband, Philip: a son, Aidan Philip, on July 29, 2004. He joins Patrick and Colin at the family home in Cranberry Township.

88 Keri Draughn Towry and her husband, James: a daughter, Elizabeth Anne, on April 16, 2004. The family lives in Paragould, Ark.

Beth Grinager Kaniuff and her husband, John: a daughter, Emma Elizabeth, on Sept. 20, 2004. She is welcomed by Ryan, 3. The family resides in Phillipsburg, N.J.

89 Mylinda Love Balint and her husband, John: a son, Ian Douglas, on March 7, 2004. He joins Lindsay, 9, and Bethany, 6, at home in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Tammi Rechlin Watchocki and her husband, Tim: a son, Alexander Todd, on April 24, 1998, and a son, Luke Sergeii, on March 9, 2000. Both boys were born in Russia and arrived at the family home in Orlando on July 2, 2004, where they were welcomed by Kailey, 5.

90 Kara Miller Angelucci and her husband, Randy: a daughter, Audrey Anne, on May 12, 2004. She is welcomed by Zoey Anne, 4. The family lives in New Castle, where Kara is employed in sales at HC Furniture Inc.

91 Stacy Wagner Gallagher and her husband, Rick: a daughter, Emma, in 2003. She joins Adyn, 4, and Cade, 2, at the family home in Pittsburgh.

Melissa Ward Weikel and her husband, Ken: a daughter, Sarah, in 2004. She joins Nathan, 9, Jacob, 7, and Anna, 3. The family lives in La Plata, Md.

Denise Yetka Estes and her husband, Daniel: a son, Ryan, on May 29, 2002; a daughter, Lauren, on Feb. 9, 2004.

92 James Flinn and his wife, Michelle: McClain, in 2004. McClain is welcomed by Braden, 7, and Sydney, 5, at the family home in Spring Hill, Fla.


93 Sheila Bowser Parker and her husband, Braden: a son, Brady, on April 14, 2003. Sheila is an academic facilitator for the Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School. The family lives in Houston.

Kathleen Galbreath McCommons and her husband, David McCommons: a daughter, Madylin Maron, on Sept. 7, 2004. She joins Molly Elizabeth, 2. Kathleen is a teacher in the Wilmingtion Area School District. The family lives in Ellwood City, where David is assistant superintendent in the Ellwood City School District.

Bobbi Lyn Henry Cooper and her husband, Brian: a son, Brady, on April 27, 2004. He is welcomed by Juliana, 4, at the family home in New Castle. Bobbi Lyn is a kindergarten teacher in the Seneca Valley School District.

Lara Isabella DeLatte and her husband, Marc: a daughter, Liliana Eve, on June 23, 2004. She joins Emma, 5, at home in Delmont. Lara is a teacher in the Penn-Trafford School District in Harrison City.


94 Amy Dietrich Bonnar and her husband, Jason Bonnar ’95: a son, Jameson Robert, on June 1, 2004. He is welcomed by Bethany, 3, at the family’s home in Beaver. Amy is an elementary music specialist in the Midland Borough School District.

Kim Dowd Hansen and her husband, Randy: a daughter, Laurel Ann, on Sept. 27, 2004. The family resides in Pittsburgh, where Kim is a research assistant at the University of Pittsburgh.

Nicole Fulmer Toombs and her husband, Jason: a son, Carson Alexander, on Sept. 24, 2004. He is welcomed by big brother Aidan at the family’s home in Westerville, Ohio.

Kristine Leonardo Cook and her husband, Dr. Scott Cook ’96: a daughter, Hope, on Nov. 2, 2004. The family lives in Indiana, where Scott is a chiropractic physician.


Kari Matchett Bair and her husband, Theodore Bair Jr.: Sydney, in 2004. The new arrival is welcomed by Hailey, 3. (See also Class Notes.)

Susan Revak Morse and her husband, Eric: a daughter, Madeline Louise, on Sept. 24, 2004. The family resides in North Ridgeville, Ohio.

95 Lori Denk Mehalik and her husband, Craig: a daughter, Blake Ann, on Nov. 9, 2003. Lori is a kindergarten teacher in the Steel Valley School District. The family resides in South Park.

Theodore Saad and his wife, Tammy: a daughter, Marisa Grace, on May 7, 2004. She joins Theodore William, 3. (See also Class Notes.)


96 Jessica Ireland Lapinski and her husband, Robert: a son, Jacob James, on Sept. 10, 2004. Jessica is a reading coordinator for Power4Kids Reading Initiative. The family lives in Bethel Park.

Caryn Mehalik Pizon and her husband, Anthony Pizon ’97: a son, Benjamin Anthony, on Dec. 23, 2003. (See also Class Notes.)

97 David Repp and his wife, Jill: a son, Nicholas McClain, on Oct. 8, 2004. He joins Alex, 2, at the family’s home in Acworth, Ga.

98 Heidi Baumgartner Coffman and her husband, Dan

Steffany Baustert McCafferty and her husband, Robert: a daughter, Claire Patricia, on Jan. 27, 2004. She is welcomed by Laura Helen, Steffany’s mother, on Jan. 27, 2004. Her husband, Robert: a daughter, Hayden, 2, at home in Bay Village, Ohio.


Steffany is a supervisor at Carbis Walker LLP, a public accounting and consulting firm in New Castle. The family resides in Cranberry Township.

Michael Foltz Murphy and her husband, Dr. Robert Murphy ’95: a son, Adam Robert, on Dec. 16, 2003. Michael is a personal assistant with Stone Creek Builders; Robert is a doctor of chiropractic with the Chaffee Chiropractic Center. The family resides in North Canton, Ohio.

Amy Gustavson Garland and her husband, Michael: a daughter, Olivia Grace, on March 7, 2004. Amy is a news videographer for WKBN-TV 27 in Youngstown, Ohio. The family lives in Boardman, Ohio.

Dawn Planie Gullifer and her husband, Matthew: a daughter, Gracyn Maura, on Nov. 6, 2004. (See also Marriages.)

Christopher Mavrodis and his wife, Amy: a daughter, Daylen Jean, on May 10, 2004. Christopher is a behavior specialist for Family Counseling Center in Armstrong County.

Samuel Reigle and his wife, Lori: a son, Sam, in 2003. He is welcomed by Isabella, 4, at home in Niles, Ohio. Samuel is a social studies teacher and coach in the Weathersfield Local School District in Mineral Ridge, Ohio.

Naomi Miller Agostino and her husband, Michael: a daughter, Felicity Amelia, on Sept. 22, 2004. The family resides in Dover, Del., where Naomi is a laboratory technician with Procter & Gamble.

Erika Hink Vansovich and her husband, John: a daughter, Skylar Sierras, on June 19, 2004. The family lives in New Castle. (See also Marriages.)

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.

Mary Margaret “Peg” Allen of Santa Fe, N.M., Sept. 10, 2004. She received her bachelor’s degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and graduated from the School of Applied Social Services at Case Western Reserve University. She was a social worker for the federal government in Cleveland from 1930-53, and in Chicago from 1953 until her retirement in 1970. She moved to Santa Fe in 1972. A lifelong Presbyterian, she was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe. She served as a deacon and was active in the Presbyterian Women’s Association. She was a life member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Nature Conservancy, National Association of Retired Federal Employees and was a pioneer member of the National Association of Social Workers. Miss Allen was a board member of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe and served on the board of AARP. Survivors include two brothers and their spouses; two nephews; and a niece.

Kenneth Dyer of Washington, D.C., Sept. 4, 2004. He was retired president of M & B Agency Inc. Survivors include two daughters.

Margaret Sherbondy Beadel of Oxford, Md., Nov. 7, 2004. She was a retired junior high teacher.


Top: Professors emeriti Dewey DeWitt, Robert Travis and Clarence Harms plant a white oak tree in the microforest at the Westminster Field Station on Dec. 17, in memory of Bill Offutt. Below: A sign honoring Bill and his wife Virginia was also placed in the ground. The renaming of the Bill and Virginia Offutt Microforest was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2002.

William J. Offutt Jr. of New Wilmington, on Dec. 13, 2004. Known as a man of the earth and trees, he was self-employed in the nursery business and held a master of science degree from the University of Pittsburgh. A Navy officer during World War II, he loved fishing, nature, birds, and was formerly active in scouting. He was also a member of the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church. A celebration of his life was held at Westminster’s Field Station on Dec. 17, including the planting of a white oak tree in his memory. The tree was planted in the Bill and Virginia Offutt Microforest, a project in historical ecology named for the Offuts, who once owned the land, in 2002. The project entails reconstructing a woodlot of five acres that resembles, by its diversity, the forests that once filled western Pennsylvania. The oaks, hickories, beeches, maples, chestnuts and other trees will eventually show what the region was like in the early days of European settlement. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Virginia Rye Offutt ’42; a daughter, Kathy Offutt McGill ’71 and her husband, Gene McGill ’70; a son; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
36 Carter Johnston of Volant, Oct. 25, 2004. He retired in 1974 from the former Sharon Steel Corp.’s Farrell plant as assistant superintendent of the utilities department. He was an active member of the Volant Fire Department and the Volant Water Company for many years, and was a member of the Volant United Methodist Church. Survivors include two daughters, Rebecca Johnston ’63 and Virginia Johnston Greer ’67; two sons; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

38 Dorothy Veazey Way of Flagstaff, Ariz., March 22, 2003. She was formerly a teacher and guidance counselor in the Poland (Ohio) schools. Survivors include a son and a daughter, Barbara Way Mohr ’66.

42 Lois Holub Northcott of Zelienople, Oct. 29, 2004. She was a retired Pittsburgh Public Schools teacher. Survivors include a daughter and her husband; a sister, Carolyn Holub Wilbanks ’50; a brother, Frank Holub ’48; a sister-in-law; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mary Beth Blanche McLaughry of New Wilmington, Nov. 14, 2004. Among the fifth generation of McLaughrys to live in New Wilmington, she went to work as a hot-press forging inspector at the Alcoa factory in New Castle after graduating from Westminster. She also served as the financial secretary and treasurer of the UAW-CIO local at the plant. After World War II she worked on the staff of Moral Re-Armament, an international conflict resolution program. In the late 1950s, she served as secretary to the president of the March of Dimes in New York. She was chief accounting officer in the office of the mayor of Los Angeles in the ’60s. Miss McLaughry returned to New Wilmington in 1970 and served the College as director of annual giving until her retirement. She was among the earliest supporters of the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter and was active with the Lawrence County Historical Society. Until 2002, she lived in the home she built on Laury Lane in New Wilmington, on what was part of her great-grandfather’s farm. Survivors include two brothers, Jim McLaughry ’44 and his wife, and Bill McLaughry ’99 and his wife, Kate McLaughry ’93; a sister, Peg McLaughry Marshall Lehto ’65 and her husband, David Lehto ’58; two nieces; and three nephews.

Michael Radock of Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 15, 2004. He was a nationally recognized leader in public relations and higher education development. After graduating magna cum laude from Westminster, he earned his master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University and pursued further graduate study at Case Western Reserve University. He worked for various newspapers in western Pennsylvania and radio news in Canton, Ohio. He later served on the faculty at Westminster, Kent State University and the University of Wyoming. For nine years he was on the corporate public relations staff at Ford Motor Company. Mr. Radock joined the University of Michigan and served as vice president for university relations and professor of journalism from 1961-81. After retiring from Michigan, he was named senior vice president for university relations and development and a professor of journalism at the University of Southern California. From 1983-93, he was vice president for resource development at the Aspen Institute in New York City, and adviser to the president at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in Flint. He was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the Board of Foreign Scholarships, which supervises the Fulbright Exchange Program. He also served as chairman of the White House Initiative Science and Technology Advisory Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Mr. Radock was a trustee of the Michigan Historical Foundation, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In 1980, he received the Distinguished Service Award for leadership in institutional advancement for minority colleges and universities. A trustee emeritus at Westminster, he also received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater. Survivors include two sons and one daughter-in-law; two grandsons; three brothers; and two sisters, including Sophie Radock Cutter ’47.


46 Elizabeth “Betty” Nickerson Shaffer of New Wilmington, Oct. 13, 2004. She was a homemaker and a teacher who authored three books. She was a member of the Tuesday Afternoon Garden Club, the Monday Evening Garden Club, and the Thursday Club of New Wilmington. She was also a member of the Lawrence County Medical Society Auxiliary, of which she was president from 1975-76. She also served as president of Pro-Life in Lawrence County. Mrs. Shaffer was a member of New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, where she was an elder, Sunday school teacher, a former youth leader, and sang in the choir. Survivors include two daughters, including Pamela Flora Fitts ’73 and her husband, William Fitts ’73; two sons, including Timothy Flora ’72 and his wife, Debra Hart Flora ’72; and six grandchildren.

48 Jane Bardella Caldwell of Rocky River, Ohio, Oct. 18, 2004. She earned her master’s degree from Case Western Reserve University and served as a teacher in the Cleveland Public Schools. She also devoted many years to the youth ministries of Lakewood Presbyterian Church. Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law; a son and daughter-in-law; and seven grandchildren.

Virginia Bridges of Tampa, Fla., Dec. 26, 2004. She was a longtime professor at the University of South Florida (1964-1994), where she became associate dean in the College of Fine Arts in 1988. After graduating from Westminster, she earned her master’s and doctorate degrees from Ohio State University. While at USF, she received many awards, including 1992 FMEA Music Teacher of the Year, and the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educator Council Outstanding Music Teacher of the Year award. Survivors include a sister and two nieces.

49 Orville Flora Jr. of New Castle, July 18, 2004. He was formerly a loan officer at First National Bank, and worked in sales for Castle Stationery Co. He served with the Army Air Corps during World War II and had been a prisoner of war in Germany. He was a member of the Clem-Moore Presbyterian Church, the Pennsylvania Club, Alliance of Transylvania Saxons, Inetract Singing Society, GBU and Coachman’s Club. Survivors include two daughters, including Pamela Flora Fitts ’73 and her husband, William Fitts ’73; two sons, including Timothy Flora ’72 and his wife, Debra Hart Flora ’72; and six grandchildren.

50 Elmer Donaldson of New Castle, Oct. 17, 2004. He was a retired supervising engineer from the Slant-Fin Co. in Uniondale, N.Y. An Air Force veteran from 1939-45, he served in World War II and was a warrant officer. He was an avid bird watcher and a member of the Audobon Society. He was a member of the Shenango Presbyterian Church where he taught Sunday school. Survivors include a brother-in-law; a sister; and several nieces and nephews.

52 George Yean of Columbiana, Ohio, June 13, 2004.

56 Rita Ament Kerchner of Fayetteville, Nov. 28, 2004. She received a master’s degree in education from the State University of New York at Cortland and was employed as an elementary school teacher before retiring in 1995. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Skaneateles, N.Y.
Survivors include two sons, including Robert Kerchner ’81; a daughter; seven grandchildren; a brother; a sister; and several nieces and nephews.

58 Rodney Kerchner of Fayetteville, Oct. 23, 2004. Survivors include two sons, including Robert Kerchner ’81; a daughter; seven grandchildren; a brother-in-law; a sister-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

59 Donald Jessop of New Castle, Oct. 11, 2004. An Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he was self-employed as a bookkeeper. He was a member of Disabled American Veterans and of First Alliance Church. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Grace; two daughters and sons-in-law; a brother; three sisters and a brother-in-law; five grandchildren and their spouses; and two great-grandchildren.

60 Lawrence Chase of San Francisco, Oct. 19, 2004. He was retired from the Federal Reserve of San Francisco. Survivors include his wife, Birgit; his mother; his brother; three brothers-in-law; two sisters-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

63 Thomas Mangiarelli of New Castle, Dec. 1, 2004. He was a former teacher in the New Castle Area School District, retiring after 36 years of service. He was a member of St. Camillus Church, where he served as an usher. Survivors include his wife of 35 years, Jo Ann; a son, a daughter, Dr. Lisa Mangiarelli ’00; and a brother.

Paul Rucek of Hubbard, Ohio, April 10, 2004. He was formerly a guidance counselor in the Hubbard schools. Survivors include his wife, Ruth, and a daughter.

67 Claudia Brownlee Beck of Brandon, Miss., Dec. 6, 2004. She was an elementary school teacher in Warren, Ohio, and Dartmouth, Mass. She was active in civic affairs, as well as local radio and the Clinton Public Schools. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Allan Beck ’65; a daughter and her husband; a son; two granddaughters; and a brother.

72 James Schofield III of Hagerstown, Md., Sept. 20, 2004. A member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity at Westminster, he earned a master’s degree in history from Hood College. He recently retired from the Frederick County Public Schools, where he was a history teacher at Middletown High School. He had coached football and tennis and recently worked with Middletown’s “It’s Academic” team. A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, he was passionate about canoeing, fishing and camping. Survivors include his wife, Carol; three daughters; an uncle; cousins; parents-in-law; sister and brothers-in-law; nieces and nephews.

81 Barbara “Babs” Pendleton Donnell of Sherwood Oaks, Jan. 10, 2004. She was retired from teaching in the Blackhawk School District. Survivors include her husband, Rev. James Donnell; two daughters; a son; four grandchildren; and two brothers.

### Information Update

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or do you have some news about yourself or your family that you want to share with other Westminster alumni? Fill out the form below and return it to the Office of Alumni Records – Updates, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001.

Name ___________________________ Class ___________ Today’s Date ___________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________

Social Security Number ___________ I.D. Number (see mailing label) ___________

Occupation ______________________________________________________________

Name of Employer ___________________________ City __________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________

Home Telephone _________________________ Business Telephone _________________________

Spouse’s Name ___________________________ Spouse’s Westminster Class ___________

Children’s Names and Birth Dates ______________________________________________________________________________

Here’s my news: ______________________________________________________________

☐ Include my e-mail address in the online directory _____________________________

☐ This is an address change.

☐ This is new information which I have not submitted before.

*Please state your zip + 4. Refer to your utility bills for this number.

For Office Use Only
“W
hat really prompted me to do something
meaningful about supporting the College were
my deepest feelings about Westminster’s mission –
providing the kind of quality education that every
student should experience.”

– Donald R. Weisenstein ’47

Last spring, Don and his wife,
Gladyne, expressed their
appreciation to Westminster by
making a joint gift – a charitable
gift annuity. Proceeds from the
annuity will be used to establish
an endowed scholarship fund for
students with financial need
from Butler County,
Pennsylvania.

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For additional information about charitable gift annuities and other
planned giving opportunities, contact Gloria Cagigas, vice president for
institutional advancement, at 724-946-7368 or Sue Rudloff, director of
advancement programs, at 724-946-7673.
Devin Vosdingh sits to have a pink bunny painted on her face by sophomore Sarah Timm. Devin visited her big sister, freshman Amanda Bohler, during Lil’ Sibs Weekend, which featured a host of events for the brothers and sisters of Westminster students, including a luau, games, movies, an Easter egg hunt, a dance, and a performance by Westminster’s Dance Theatre troupe.