Celebrating Westminster Artists
Dear Westminster Alumni and Friends:

I write to tell you of my decision to retire from Westminster’s presidency on June 30, 2008. As of that date it will have been 11 years since Jean and I came to New Wilmington and were welcomed into the Westminster family. From that time forward we have discovered anew, each day, that the term “family” is not part of a slogan or soundbite, but a culture of quality and caring that is focused on Westminster’s mission of service.

Together, we have worked to move the College forward one step at a time… and together we have seen and celebrated the gains made for the benefit of Westminster students.

You may know of my mindset regarding the need for institutional renewal every ten years or so. However, this has been a difficult decision for Jean and me. Our hope is that by timing our announcement with the completion of the Strategic Plan, the year ahead can be filled with discussions with presidential candidates regarding the next set of plans for Westminster. Debora Foster, chair of the Board of Trustees, has established a committee that will begin a national search for Westminster’s 14th president. The committee will be led by Leonard Carroll, who served as chair of the Board from 2000 to 2003.

I expect to continue a high level of Westminster activity between now and June 30, 2008. During that time I look forward to working toward successful completion of fund raising and construction for McGill Library, as well as numerous other projects.

Our retirement plans call for the building of a home on Powhatan Creek near Jamestown, Va., and for more time with the kids and grandkids. Professionally speaking, I hope to find ways to be helpful in assuring that our country’s system of higher education remains the best in the world. That is a mission we have shared and will continue to share. There is much to be done and much to be cherished. The Westminster experience has professionally and personally been a wonderful highpoint in our lives. Jean and I are grateful to you for helping to make it so.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Williamson
McGill Library Fund Raising Passes $5 Million Mark, Preparations for Construction Begin

The Artists

Ceil Leeper Sturdevant ’77
Christy Jewell DeLullo ’94
Susan Stephan Foster ’72
Andy Erb ’96
Rob Smith ’69
Shaun Cloonan ’00
Robert Patrick Allen ’05

A Great Follow-Through
Golf outing, fund-raisers offer much-needed support to Sentner family.
Faculty Put Facial Hair on the Line
Fund-Raiser Benefits Local 3-Year-Old

Few things can come between a man and his facial hair. But, a dozen Westminster College faculty members and a few students were more than willing to risk their whiskers for a local boy with a genetic disorder.

The “Save It or Shave It” fund-raiser in mid-December was organized by Spanish professor Jeff Bersett, with proceeds going to the family of 3-year-old Jordan Jack of Grove City. Jack has been diagnosed with Griscelli Syndrome, a rare disorder that has left him severely impaired.

To raise funds, the campus community was invited to vote, by making donations, for which beards and mustaches they’d like to see shaved and which should stay. More than $400 was raised, and by popular demand, 10 of the 15 participants were required to pull out their razors and part with their facial hair.

Those spared included English professors Jim Perkins, Matthew Sivils and David Swerdlow; computer science professor David Shaffer; and psychology professor Jamie McMinn. Not only was McMinn allowed to keep his facial hair, requests came in for him to grow hair on his head.

Bersett was one of the seven faculty members required to shave. Also facing the razor were political science professors James Rhoads and Ed Cohen; religion professor Bryan Rennie; philosophy professor David Goldberg; Spanish professor Joel Postema; and history professor Timothy Cuff ’78, who held a public shaving to raise additional funds. All three students who entered the contest, Blake Ordell, Scott Davenport and Lee Scott, also had their facial hair voted off.

Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble Join Forces for Tour of Spain

For many years, Westminster musical groups have traveled the country and ventured abroad on performance tours. But for the first time this winter two performing groups joined forces for a tour of southern Spain.

Westminster College’s Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble traveled to the Andalusian region of Spain for a two-week tour over winter break.

“This was the first time that the Concert Choir and the Wind Ensemble took a tour together. It went so well that hopefully it won’t be the last,” said Robin Lind, director of choral activities at Westminster.

“It was important that we were able to take a vocal and instrumental ensemble to demonstrate the depth and quality of our music program,” said R. Tad Greig, director of instrumental activities.

The 67 students and faculty who participated in the tour certainly made an impression. The group met up unexpectedly and subsequently performed with the Duke University Chapel Choir and received warm receptions from the Spanish audiences.

“The responses of the audiences in Spain were overwhelming! Even though there was a significant language barrier between us, when we played, they connected with us,” said Sarah Bender, a sophomore elementary education major and member of the Wind Ensemble.

“None of us will forget this experience of making music in spectacular cathedrals, in front of enthusiastic audiences, and bringing a message of joy and friendship to people of another country and culture,” said Lind.
The newest feature in Memorial Field House will help users take their fitness level to new heights.

A 28-foot-high climbing wall was installed in the intramural gymnasium during winter break, offering students, faculty and community members a new physical and psychological challenge. The wall is 22 feet wide and provides five different climbing routes of various degrees of difficulty.

“Our hope is to use this climbing wall as an opportunity for Westminster’s campus to challenge our perspectives, to get people out of their comfort zones, and to provide an invaluable resource to athletics, to academic classes, and to organizations,” said Laura Nystrom, director of Westminster’s Titan Traverse program.

The wall was designed by Redpoint Adventures and the Titan Traverse staff. It opened to the public for the first time Jan. 30.

Students try out the new 28-foot climbing wall installed in the intramural gymnasium at Memorial Field House.

Public Relations Majors Recognized for Excellence

Seniors Kristan Kohley and Sherri Slafka were recently honored for their work in public relations.

Kohley was one of only 20 students nationwide to be presented with the Gold Key Award by the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), while Slafka continued Westminster’s run of success at the Renaissance Awards ceremony presented by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), winning the Bob O’Gara Scholarship.

Slafka, a public relations and Spanish major, received the student award, formerly called the Outstanding Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Student in Public Relations Renaissance Award. This is the sixth time in the last seven years that a Westminster College student has won the award.

“Given all of her positive attributes, including her commitment to academic excellence, professional development, and leadership, it should not be surprising that Sherri is a winner,” said Delores Natale, a Westminster College lecturer in public relations.

A graduate of Hempfield Area High School, Slafka has been an active member of PRSSA for four years, including leadership positions of president and vice president. She is active in many Westminster organizations. She is a student representative for the Student Alumni Association, a Young Presbyterian Scholar mentor, and a greeter and tour guide for the Westminster College Admissions Team.

Slafka has studied abroad in Argentina and Australia and has interned at The Herald, Legend Financial Advisors, Inc., and the Westminster College Office of Admissions.

Chair of Westminster’s Board of Trustees Debora Swatsworth Foster ’74 and Jennifer Shiffer Gross ’99 were also honored at the Renaissance award ceremony. Foster, the former vice president of corporate communications for the H.J. Heinz Co. was inducted into the PRSA Pittsburgh Hall of Fame, while Gross was named president-elect of the Pittsburgh chapter.

Kohley, who won the Renaissance undergraduate scholarship in 2006, was honored by the PRSSA at its national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

According to the PRSSA, the criteria to receive a Gold Key award includes: at least a 3.4 grade point average in the public relations major; senior or graduate student standing; leadership experience in PRSSA; membership in PRSSA for at least two years; completion of at least one professional internship; and affirmation of his or her intention to become an associate member of the PRSSA within one year of graduation.

“I am very honored to be among the small group of students across the country to receive the Gold Key Award,” Kohley said. “The PRSSA sets high standards that must be met for this award, making it the highest individual honor given to members.”

A graduate of Knoch High School, Kohley has served as: the director for the PRSSA; president of Lambda Pi Eta, a national honor communication society; a teaching assistant in the English and public relations department; a student director for the Westminster College Learning Center; member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honor leadership society; copy editor for the Holcad, Westminster’s student newspaper; and appears in the Who’s Who Among College Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Reaching New Heights

Climbing Wall Installed in Memorial Field House
Faculty Making News

Eileen Morelli, Westminster College associate professor of education, presented at the annual meeting of the Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA). Morelli’s presentation was titled “What Can Preservice High School Teachers and Urban High School Students Learn About Reading and Writing from Each Other?” “The presentation was directed toward university professors for content area literacy and high school teachers,” Morelli said.

Professor of physics Samuel Lightner attended a week-long professional meeting in Philadelphia of the Division of Plasma Physics (DPP) of the American Physical Society (APS). “During the meeting, I concentrated on both educational and outreach activities,” Lightner said. “I was a co-presenter for three workshops for high school teachers in conjunction with the APS-DPP sponsored Teachers Day.”

Assistant professor of history Timothy Cuff attended the Social Science History Association meeting in Minneapolis, where he presented his paper, “Takin’ It to the Streets: One Person’s Quest for a Wider Audience for Anthropometric History.” Cuff’s paper dealt with the issue of dissemination of historical research in non-academic/non-specialist settings and offered suggestions to fellow researchers planning to do so. Cuff also served as a discussant on another panel, “African-American History: Education and Living Standard.”

Bryan Rennie, the Vira I. Heinz professor of religion at Westminster, participated in a conference at the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago. Rennie was one of only eight scholars from around the world invited to speak on Mircia Eliade and one of only four from the United States. “This discussion of the life and work of Eliade was particularly significant because the position that I have taken in defense of the famous Romanian-American historian of religion is, after 20 years of contentious debate, beginning to win out,” Rennie said.

Russell Martin, associate professor of history at Westminster, was tabbed to head several scholarly meetings. He was elected president of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity and Culture; served as chair of the panel “The Creation of Medieval and Early Modern Biography” at the annual Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Washington, D.C.; and chairs the Book Award Committee for the Early Slavic Studies Association. Martin has also published articles in several publications. With Donald Ostrowski of Harvard University, he wrote the introduction and co-edited an issue of the journal, Russian Studies in History. In the journal Manuscripta, he contributed “Muscovite Royal Weddings: A Descriptive Inventory of Manuscript Holdings in the Treasure Room of the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, Moscow.” He also wrote “Political Folkways and Praying for the Dead in Muscovy: Reconsidering Edward Keenan’s ‘Slight’ Against the Church,” for the Canadian Slavonic Papers, and “Death and Dying: The Early Period (up to Peter I)” in the Supplement to the Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History, vol. 7.

Terri Lenox, associate professor of computer science, presented a paper at the Information Systems Educators Conference (ISECON) in Dallas. Lenox and her husband, Charles Woratschek of Robert Morris University, presented their paper “Defining CS, IS, and IT: Are we there yet?” which shared the challenge of reconciling differing definitions of the information systems field. Lenox also served as the graduate papers co-chair for the conference.


Kathy Koop, professor of art, presented a slide lecture of her work and participated in a two-day ceramic workshop at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. “In these workshops, the presenters create the work they are known for and do a lot of talking about their process and their philosophy of creativity. Then they give a slide presentation of the development of their work over the course of their career,” Koop said.

Klassen-Endrizzi

P ro f e s s o r o f education Charlene Klassen-Endrizzi and Mercer literacy coach Laura Harper ’05 recently presented their research on home-school partnerships at the Keystone State Reading Association Conference. “Our presentation, ‘Finding the Missing Piece: Welcoming Families into our Classrooms,’ drew upon our work with families and teachers at Musser Elementary School in Sharon during the 2005-06 school year. This inquiry shows the importance of helping parents understand literacy learning at school and the need for teachers to value each student’s funds of knowledge from home,” Klassen-Endrizzi said.

Sandra Webster, professor of psychology, had her textbook, Hand in Hand: Research Design and Statistics in Behavioral Science, published by Atomic Dog Publishing. “I wrote the first version of this text book while I was a Fulbright lecturer in Nigeria in 1990,” Webster said. “When I came home, I continued to use it with my students at Westminster and added to it each year.”

Kang-Yup Na, Westminster associate professor of religion, writes a monthly column for Presbyterian Today, the award-winning national magazine for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Na was invited to submit a writing sample last year and was subsequently contracted to write a “Bible Explorations” column for 10 issues.

Amy Camarades, Westminster professor of education, was recently selected as co-chair of the 2006 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People. The committee selects books for children in grades K-12. Camarades, who is also a member of the Carter G. Woodson Book Award Committee, also presented “Read Anything Good Lately? Elementary Level Books, K-6” at the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) in Washington, D.C.

David Goldberg, an assistant professor of philosophy, published “A Nietzschean Solution to Ethical Relativism” in the book, Existentialist Thinkers and Ethics. “With the postmodern death of metaphysics, ethical decision making appears to become impossible as all positions seem to be equally justified. My paper attempts to offer a Nietzschean solution to this problem by examining his concept of genealogy and the significance it plays in ethical decision making.”
Chemistry Students Present Results of Acid Mine Drainage Research

Nineteen Westminster College chemistry and biochemistry majors presented their acid mine drainage research findings at a monthly meeting of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC).

The students conducted a study of two different treatment sites, DeSale and Erico Bridge, for acid mine drainage as part of a service learning project.

“Students use their knowledge about the chemistry of acid mine drainage and chemical testing to study the water samples,” said Helen Boylan, assistant professor of chemistry. “They provide a service to the community by partnering with SRWC, a non-profit organization, by providing them with the analytical test results of their sites. This is a win-win situation. The students get a hands-on experience with real world samples and observe chemistry in action, and SRWC avoids the very expensive cost to hire a commercial lab for routine monitoring of their systems.”

Since 1995, the SRWC has installed 12 treatment sites, and more are being planned.

Over the course of three weeks, the students tested the efficacy of the two passive treatment sites through both field and laboratory analysis.

“This certainly could be an ongoing project,” Boylan said. “Passive treatment systems use natural processes to clean the water such as limestone rock beds. They are installed around areas that have acid mine drainage problems, and these sites need to be checked continuously to make sure they are doing their job.”

Sophomore, Religion Professor Collaborate on Presentation

Sophomore Christopher Stone assisted Kang-Yup Na with his research then accompanied the professor to Scotland for its presentation.

Na, an associate professor of religion, presented “Hermeneutics and Postmodernity: A Methodological Sachkritik” at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was joined by Stone, his student research assistant, who is majoring in international politics and philosophy.

“I was excited to work with such a brilliant man and be part of his research,” Stone said. “I was also excited for the opportunity to be part of this research project that was so in depth.”

“It was one of the most fruitful conference experiences for me and certainly for Chris, who helped me greatly with my research and with the final editorial work on the paper,” Na said.

The Vira L. Heinz Foundation funded this research and travel for the student and professor.

SIFE Team Places Second at Regional Competition

Westminster College’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team came in second to the reigning national champions in a SIFE competition held at Syracuse University.

The team competed in a financial case study, aiming to help a fictional family develop an effective recovery strategy from mounting financial debt.

Team members included juniors Kerri Campbell, Laura Pienkowski and Brett Turk, and sophomore Alyssa Swatko.

Care Packages Shipped to Iraq

Westminster College elementary education students recently sent care packages to four soldiers in Iraq.

“[The students] worked very hard to collect money from three sites: Mugsies Coffee House in New Wilmington; the Westminster College information desk in McKelvey Campus Center; and in our education department,” said Amy Camardese, Westminster College assistant professor of education. “Every Friday this semester, they contributed a dollar in exchange for ‘dressing down.’ A total of $450 was collected to purchase the items sent to the soldiers in Iraq.”

Since 1995, the SRWC has installed 12 treatment sites, and more are being planned.

Over the course of three weeks, the students tested the efficacy of the two passive treatment sites through both field and laboratory analysis.

“This certainly could be an ongoing project,” Boylan said. “Passive treatment systems use natural processes to clean the water such as limestone rock beds. They are installed around areas that have acid mine drainage problems, and these sites need to be checked continuously to make sure they are doing their job.”
sports update

fall sports roundup

accolades that include two team conference championships, three conference player of the year awards, three conference coach of the year awards, numerous all-conference team representatives, and, not to mention, three teams competing in post-season play highlighted the Westminster College 2006 fall sports season.

women’s soccer (14-5-3, 5-1 PAC)

The Westminster women’s soccer team won its fourth Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) championship in the last five years in 2006. Led by PAC Player of the Year Mallory Bugel and PAC Coach of the Year Girish Thakar, the Titans ran up eight straight wins at one point during the season and won two matches to win the PAC title, including a 0-0 tie against top-seeded defending champion Thomas More that was decided by penalty kicks.

after coming back from a two-goal deficit, the Titans defeated top-seeded Bethany, 4-3, for Westminster’s first PAC men’s soccer championship since 2001. Four days later, Westminster lost at Carnegie Mellon, 3-0, in the first round of the ECAC Division III South Championships after qualifying for the post-season for the third time under ninth-year head coach Girish Thakar.

The Titans ended the season strong by winning six of their final seven regular-season matches. Westminster had two players voted first team all-PAC, including senior midfielder Todd Atwood and sophomore defender Chris Ellwanger. Atwood was also named to the NSCAA All-Mid Atlantic Region Third Team. Junior forward Andy Saporito led the club with 12 goals and 35 points.

volleyball (24-12, 10-2 PAC)

Westminster’s volleyball team won 11 straight matches at one point during the season and posted a PAC-best 10-2 conference record before hosting the league championships. The top-seeded Titans were upset by eventual champion and fourth-seeded Thomas More in the semifinals, 3-0, but later received a post-season berth in the

ecac division iii south championships. Westminster advanced to the semifinals before losing to a formidable Penn State-Behrend team that defeated the Titans earlier in the season.

The Titans nearly swept the post-season PAC awards. Head coach Tammy Swearingen was named PAC Coach of the Year after leading the Titans to their 10th season with 20 or more wins during her 14 years as coach. Senior middle hitter Katie McDermott was named PAC Player of the Year, and junior Kylene Hoch was named PAC Defensive Player of the Year.

women’s tennis (9-7, 4-1 PAC)

In just his second season as coach of the Titan women’s tennis team, Scott Renninger guided Westminster to a second-place finish in the PAC while earning coach of the year honors. The Titans had four singles players and all three doubles tandems competing in championships matches.

Freshman April Scudere captured the team’s first PAC title in two years by winning the No. 4 singles championship with a 60, 60 win over Grove City’s Erin Bennett.
Men’s and Women’s Cross Country

The men’s and women’s cross country teams took fourth and third, respectively, at the PAC Championships. Coached by Gary Lilly, the Titans featured freshman Elizabeth Beardsley who placed 22nd at the league championships with a 6-kilometer time of 26:30 in a field of 75 runners. Senior Scott Seserko was the men’s team top runner all season before finishing 37th out of 83 runners at PACs with an 8-kilometer time of 30:32.

Football (2-8, 1-5 PAC)

The Westminster football team absorbed a last-place finish in the PAC under second-year head coach Jeff Hand. However, the Titans have a bright future with a young team featuring a number of freshmen and sophomore starters.

The two wins were signature victories, both occurring at home, including a 27-24 double overtime win over an Adrian team that was picked to win its conference entering the season, and a 49-13 homecoming win over Bethany that was the Titans’ largest margin of victory since 1997.

The freshmen starters included quarterback Kevin Franz, who guided the PAC’s top passing offense (229.5 yards per game) and individually led the league with 228.8 yards of total offense per game. Only one of four Titan quarterbacks all-time to throw for 2,000 yards or more in a season, Franz’s 208 completions was also the second most in school history.

Westminster College has added new multimedia features to its athletics Web site. Visitors can access live and archived audio broadcasts of Westminster athletics, and for the first time, video highlights of Titan football games.

The audio and video features can be found on the Westminster College athletics Web site at www.westminster.edu/athletics by selecting the link for “Media Archive.” The audio broadcasts are direct programming from Titan Radio WWNW-FM (88.9), which can also be accessed at www.titanradio.net, while the video highlights are produced by the Westminster Cable Network (WCN).

According to David Barner, chair of the communications department at Westminster, there are plans to feature additional video programming produced by WCN such as the “Coach’s Corner” shows for football and men’s and women’s basketball.

To view the videos, visitors must be using a high-speed Internet connection. A direct link to the video archive is available at the following URL address: www.westminster.edu/athletics/media_video_archive.cfm.
Bethany in West Virginia. That evening the Titan women’s team, also playing on the road as a lower seed, defeated reigning champion Thomas More in Wildner, Ky., to win its fourth PAC title in the last five years.

Thakar left New Wilmington with the men’s team at 7 a.m. for the noon match in Bethany. During warm-ups the field conditions were not playable so the game was relocated to a nearby youth practice field and the goals were erected just in time for kickoff.

Westminster upset the Bison, a team that had not conceded a goal in eight previous games entering the match, by a 4-3 score, platooning younger players into the lineup and coming back from a two-goal deficit.

“The game could’ve gone either way,” Thakar said. “Being focused was a key thing. It was an uphill battle but you didn’t see that in our players. It just didn’t seem like they were going to lose.”

The game ended at 2:30 p.m. and Thakar, along with Ben Brownlee, the assistant director of the PAC, jumped in Brownlee’s 2001 Chevy Cavalier bound for Kentucky.

“I didn’t have time to think,” Thakar recalled. “I gave the trophy to the team and I had to go. Not being able to enjoy the win, especially with the seniors, was tough.”

Brownlee drove the four-and-a-half hours to suburban Cincinnati, while Thakar chatted on his cell phone and prepared for his next game. They made it to the field unscathed with a half-hour before the 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

On Thakar’s arrival, the women’s team was excited to hear the good news about their classmates winning, but their coach wasn’t quite sure how to approach them.

“I was worried,” Thakar said. “It’s nice to celebrate the win you just had and to go in there with a smile, but how would that affect the women’s team?

“‘My focus was to compose myself for the second game. Now it’s like, ‘We have to win this game now.’ They were definitely motivated by it. They knew it was going to be a challenge.”

The teams played deep into the night in a scoreless tie. After two overtime periods and 110 minutes of play, the PAC title would have to be determined on a penalty-kick shootout. The Titans won the shootout, 4-3, as junior Kristen Martin, who had never attempted a penalty kick in her career, potted the decisive goal by faking the Thomas More goalkeeper to one side and burying the shot to the other.

After a brief celebration, and the realization that there was no hot water at the locker room facility, Thakar had all a coach could handle for one day. The team departed by bus just after 11:30 p.m. and arrived back in New Wilmington by 5 a.m.

All in a day’s work.

“What I remember most was just the ups and downs of the day,” Thakar said. “It’s one thing to play those games, but the way the games panned out made it more than just two championship games. It was nonstop all day.”

Thakar, with 178 wins, six conference championships and eight post-season appearances, has had many good days in his coaching career.

“I talked to other people about it being an unbelievable day,” he added. “It hasn’t hit me. To me it was two big games.”

(Thakar is sports information director at Westminster.)
December 2 – Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Westminster College Women’s Club held a holiday brunch and program at the Sheraton Station Square. Debbie Swatsworth Foster ’74, chair of the Westminster College Board of Trustees, was the featured speaker. Thank you to Jean Williamson; Dorothy Pollock ’46, advancement associate; Biz Ellis Hines ’70, director of alumni planning and programming; and Sue Rudloff, director of advancement programs, for attending from campus.

December 6 – Pittsburgh. The Duquesne Club was the setting for the Pittsburgh Alumni Christmas Open House with Tom and Jean Williamson. Twenty-five alumni and guests attended the wonderful open house. Special guests were Tom, Jean and Kate Williamson. President Williamson provided greetings from campus and a college update. Thanks, also, to Susi Larsen Allten ’66, for taking great pictures of the evening.

January 4 – Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Special thanks to Harry and Sondra Mohr Smith ’66 ’66 for hosting a special evening at their home in Florida. Twenty-five alumni and guests attended the wonderful open house. Special guests were Tom, Jean and Kate Williamson. President Williamson provided greetings from campus and a college update. Thanks, also, to Susi Larsen Allten ’66, for taking great pictures of the evening.

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

As Coordinator of Advancement Events for Westminster College, Cindy works with regional alumni groups throughout the country to develop and strengthen Westminster Connections.

Cindy Dafler ’03 has been a member of the Westminster College staff since 1991. For information about an upcoming regional event or if you are interested in hosting an event in your area, contact Cindy at 724-946-7373 or daflercs@westminster.edu.
Networking 101 Session Benefits Students

Co-hosted by the Alumni Council and Student Alumni Association, Networking 101 brought alumni to campus to share their experience and contacts with students. To kick off the evening, panel speakers Rob Jackson ’91, CEO, Grove City Medical Center; Bill Hazen ’65, president, Bill Hazen & Associates; and Joanne Stone Morrissey ’69, president & COO, Firemark Group, and moderator Kelly Corbin ’08, discussed the “do’s and don’ts” of networking and answered questions. The evening concluded with reception time for networking among alumni and students.

Additional alumni who came to campus to share their experience and contacts with students were Barbara Braden Guffey ’70, Judge Tom Gysyegem ’81, Chris Hall ’01, Keith McCauley ’68, Sarah Milanovich ’06, Stephanie Yerger Myler ’03, Marie Nicholas Peterson ’51, Seth Rice ’01, Ken Romig ’85, Harry Smith ’66, and Dan Vogler ’81.

Students appreciated the opportunity to connect with alumni: “It was great to get to talk to the alumni,” said sophomore Rachael Conn. “They were all very friendly and came up to us and asked us lots of questions and gave us good information. This was a really beneficial event!”

Alumni Council and Student Alumni Association look forward to expanding opportunities for students and alumni to connect. Watch for future events. We hope you can join us.

Point. Click. Connect.

- Connect with Westminster friends.
- Connect with Westminster news.
- Connect with Westminster sports.
- Connect with Westminster events, some announced only through e-mail.

Add your current e-mail address to the online Alumni E-mail Directory, www.westminster.edu/alumniemail

Citation and Award Nominations Requested

This April, the Alumni Council will select recipients for Westminster College Alumni Citations and the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Recipients will be honored Friday, September 28, as a part of Homecoming and Reunion Weekend festivities. If you know of alumni who have made significant contributions in the professional field, their community or to Westminster, please submit their nominations.

Nominations may be submitted electronically at www.westminster.edu/Alumni/AlumniAwards&Nominations.htm. Or mail information to the Wiley Alumni House, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001.

Please include the nominees’ full name, address, and class year and biographical information and accomplishments. These support materials are welcome in all formats: articles, Web links, DVD’s, or an informative letter from the nominator.
Alumni News

Winter 2007 • Westminster College Magazine

SAA members wrapped up their fall and enjoyed a homemade Christmas dinner at Wiley House.

Student Alumni Association Growing

SAA members took a few minutes to relax and enjoy an end-of-semester home cooked meal at Wiley Alumni House. This is a busy year for members of the SAA, as they expand programming encouraging student and alumni connections. In November they worked with Alumni Council to host Networking 101. Spring brings the introduction of the Alumni Connections Series. This year, featured discipline areas are Connections in Business, Connections in Science and Connections in Education.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend
September 28-30, 2007

You may recognize SAA members as campus shuttle drivers during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend or friendly faces at regional alumni events. They are eager to grow their connections with alumni. Sarah Mantella ’08, SAA president, values the opportunities to network with alumni. “Alumni contacts are very helpful for students. They understand Westminster, have good job experience and advice, and some even have really funny stories from when they were students.”

Annual Alumni Association Meeting Set for April 21

Westminster Alumni Council members gathered on campus in early January. In addition to annual efforts such as encouraging Westminster Fund support and planning Homecoming, the winter meeting included McGill Library renovation updates and planning for increasing opportunities for alumni to support students.

Council meets again Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m., in Berlin Student Lounge, McKelvey Campus Center. The spring meeting is the annual meeting of the Westminster Alumni Association and open to all alumni. If you would like to attend, contact the alumni office for further details.

Wiley Alumni House
Westminster College
New Wilmington, PA 16172
(724) 946-7364
alumni@westminster.edu

Westminster Titans vs. Grove City Wolverines

15th Cluster for Classes of 1991, ’92 & ’93
25th Reunion for Class of 1982
35th Cluster for Classes of 1971, ’72 & ’73
50th Reunion for Class of 1957
55th Reunion for Class of 1952

Who do you hope to see? Contact your roommates, classmates, teammates, lab partner, fellow band member, brother, sister, friends… and make plans to meet on campus. This is your weekend to reconnect!
McGill Library Fund Raising Passes $5 Million Mark, Preparations for Construction Begin

The $6 million McGill Library renovation project has taken two giant steps forward this winter – fund raising passed the $5 million mark in January, and preparation for construction began over the Christmas break.

The College had received approximately 400 gifts and pledges totaling nearly $5.1 million by January 31 in an enthusiastic response from FOL members, other alumni and friends, trustees and College employees, foundations, and businesses and corporations. “With continued momentum in fund raising, we are hopeful that major construction can begin this May,” said President R. Thomas Williamson.

The library’s ground floor has been vacated allowing preliminary construction over the December-January break. Asbestos has been abated, and a new reinforced floor will soon be installed to accommodate compact shelving units.

“All of the periodicals have been relocated across campus to Russell Hall, and the children’s collection has been moved to the first floor,” said Molly Spinney ’72, head librarian. “This summer, infrastructure work will go forward including installation of a new, larger elevator and a modern heating and air conditioning system as well as roof and drain repairs. After the compact shelving and elevator systems are in place, we will largely shift the collection from the upper floors to the ground and first floors.”

Infrastructure improvements and renovation of the upper floors will continue through the 2007-2008 academic year. In the summer of 2008, the first floor will be renovated and the building’s original 1938 entrance reopened in an ADA accessible format. The project will be completed for the opening of the 2008 Fall Semester.

The idea, says Spinney, will be to continually maintain convenient student and public access to library resources throughout the construction period. “It’s an exciting and challenging time, and I’m sure there will be a certain amount of learning as we go along.”

Gifts and pledges to the McGill Library project may be sent to the Development Office, Westminster College, 319 S. Market St., New Wilmington, PA 16172 or call 724-946-7370.
Artistry comes in many shapes and sizes. From professional musicians to amateur dancers, poets to painters, the lifelong students of the fine arts celebrated on the following pages share more than talent, creativity and a continued commitment to their craft. They also share a challenging yet supportive undergraduate background that illuminated, or perhaps augmented, their passion for their art and steered them to heights not even their imaginative minds could have dreamed. Here are their stories...

Profiles by Patrick Broadwater and Sandra Chandler
The Teacher as Student

‘Never too old to learn’ philosophy shapes sculptor’s life

Ceil Leeper Sturdevant chose Westminster College over another small, private, church-related liberal arts institution in western Pennsylvania for one reason: “I always wanted to be an art teacher, and Westminster offered an art education major that wasn’t available at [the other school].” Twenty-eight years later, her passion for art and teaching continues, with a bonus: “I learn so much from my students.”

Sturdevant teaches clay at The Ellis School, a private girls’ college preparatory school in Pittsburgh. A few years ago, after teaching full time, she approached the school’s administration with a job-sharing proposal: She would teach three days a week at the school, with another woman picking up the remaining days. On the two days she wasn’t in the classroom, Sturdevant would work in her studio, a beautiful light-filled space built to her design and located behind her home. The administration agreed and now boasts of having a practicing artist on staff.

The results of her studio time have been exhibited locally and internationally, including some that are in permanent collections in Japan. Her work is varied and includes figures, totems, hanging pieces and installation/interactive art. “My pieces reflect my life, like a visual diary.” She uses materials and finishes that come from ancient times, such as the Greek terra sigilatta (“earth on earth”), and beeswax, which is absorbed into the clay’s surface during the firing process. “I want the pieces to look like they’ve just been dug up.”

One benefit of teaching is that it allows Sturdevant to pursue another passion. During summers and school breaks, she has traveled literally all over the world—Egypt, Mexico, Greece, Japan, Canada, France—often with her daughter Helena or a group of students. Sometimes Sturdevant is an artist-in-residence, organizing and teaching workshops and classes. Other times, she’s the student, learning about ancient finishes or firing techniques, which are added to her curriculum back home.

One of these techniques that has developed into a tradition at Ellis is the haiku tea ceremony held each fall. The students make tea bowls using raku, an ancient Japanese firing method. The Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, across the street from Ellis, makes its kiln available for this special project, which includes candles and haiku readings. The students use their newly fired tea bowls in the age-old ceremonial ritual.

Sturdevant credits Kathy Koop, Westminster art professor, with being “very important in helping me find my passion—working and teaching with clay.” The mentor-to-friend relationship began to develop early in the young student’s college career. “Each one in the class had made a vessel. We were sitting in a group, waiting for Kathy’s critique of our first pieces, and I was very nervous. I just hoped it would be all right. Kathy was so positive in her critique, it eased the nervousness.

“Kathy became a friend as well as a teacher, and was the one who directed me toward artist residencies.

“I wouldn’t be here, doing what I love, without her positive you-can-do-it encouragement. She’s an A+++ teacher.”

(To view Ms. Sturdevant’s work, visit www.ceilclay.com)

-S.C.
Thirteen years after her last Dance Theatre performance at Westminster, Christy Jewell DeLullo isn’t dancing anymore. At least not right now when she’s eight months pregnant with her fourth child.

But in a few months, DeLullo expects to be back in the studio, once again losing herself in the rhythm.

“This year, I’m not dancing, and it’s killing me,” said DeLullo, who now studies under Marguerite Timko-Kinney at Marguerite’s Academy of Dance in Erie. DeLullo tried once before to walk away from the stage, but the separation lasted only a few years. A dance student since she was just three years old, she performed all through high school and college, but then voluntarily gave it up after college as she entered “the real world.”

“I didn’t realize I missed it so much,” DeLullo said. “I got married [to classmate Jamey DeLullo ’94], got a job and moved away and had a baby – I was doing the things that you think you’re supposed to be doing in the next stage of your life – and then I went back, and I see how much more it means to me. I try to explain that to the young girls in the class. They always say, ‘You enjoy this so much.’ That’s because I really appreciate the couple of hours I get away to do it. I just lose myself in it.”

That she even got to dance in college was a huge lift to DeLullo.

“That’s the whole reason I went to Westminster,” she said. “I wasn’t looking to become a professional dancer, so when I was looking at colleges, I thought I was done. But my friend’s sister was in Dance Theatre. We went to visit for a weekend and it drew me to the college.

“Some of my best friends still are from Dance Theatre. I even got my husband roped into it for a couple of years.”

An orthopedic surgeon, Jamey hasn’t been able to make time for more lessons, but that doesn’t mean that Christy is the only family member performing. Oldest daughter Juliana, 9, and son Braden, 7, have been taking lessons for several years and Ava Rose, 3, will be in her first show this year at the historic Warner Theater in Erie.

“My daughter loves to watch my numbers, because I do the big, fancy numbers,” DeLullo said. “It always cracks me up, though – I’m proudest of the ballet. It’s the hardest, most technical with the fancy tricks that I can’t believe I’ve learned this late in life, and she always likes the funky jazz one, the one you don’t have to think anything about.”

And what does her son think about Mom’s performance?

“He just falls asleep in his dad’s lap when he’s done.”

- PB.
Susan Stephan Foster recalls her second grade report card, the one that said she had artistic ability. Now, years later, she is exhibiting that same ability in art shows and galleries throughout western Pennsylvania and neighboring states. “It’s expensive to pack and ship pieces all over the country, so I display them wherever I’m living.”

Home now is Export, where she lives with her husband, David Foster ’70. The couple’s three grown daughters have inherited their mother’s artistic bent in varying degrees: One is an art therapist; one has the talent but isn’t sure what path she wants to take with it; and one “won an art award in kindergarten and never did another thing with it.”

Foster and her family moved to Philadelphia when she was a junior in high school and just beginning the search for a college. She was looking for a small liberal arts school with an art major, something that was scarce in those days. “I happened upon Westminster, visited the campus and fell in love.

“Abstract art was in vogue, and friends who went to other schools were being pushed in that direction. I was fortunate to be at Westminster, where professors like Robert Hild and Nelson Oestreich were very influential in keeping me on the path I had chosen. Abstract art is fine, but it just isn’t me.”

Today, she teaches watercolor and drawing to adult education classes and pursues her craft in her home studio. Membership in several artists’ organizations offers opportunities to exhibit her award-winning work and provides networking resources.

She belongs to Watercolors, a gallery co-op in downtown Pittsburgh, where her work is displayed. Her pieces have found their way into a number of private and corporate collections and have been juried into national shows, including the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and the West Virginia Watercolor Society.

Her “bread and butter” is commission work, including some she does for a local real estate agent. Foster does house portraits that the agent presents to new homeowners. A promotional piece for the agent, it provides a steady income for Foster, since “there are always a few to do.”

She has worked with pastels, oils and colored pencils, but watercolor remains her favorite medium. Her subjects vary and often are chosen for some inherent quality they possess, such as lighting or color, rather than the subject itself.

While she can’t pinpoint a specific piece that stands out, there are some that, for various reasons, won’t be sold. One of these is of a quilt that her grandmother had made. “I was working on this on the floor of the family room—before I had a studio. The kids were little and every day would bring friends home after school. They would all pick out a favorite patch [on the original quilt] and say ‘Do this one next!’ I couldn’t include them all, but I could remember where a lot of the fabrics had come from—a doll’s dress or a blouse. The finished painting looks so real, people often think it’s a photo.

“Because it took so long to complete (I felt like I was making a quilt!), the kids were so involved, and it was something of my grandmother’s, this is one piece that I will always keep. Along with a few other favorites, these are ‘my children’.”

-S.C.
Andy Erb is a musician. Don’t try to categorize him as “just” a music teacher or a band director or a rocker or a jazz cat or a classical musician. The titles all fit, but he prefers to be known simply as a musician—one who happens to play, teach and enjoy a variety of musical styles.

In his day job, Erb teaches instrumental lessons and band in the Sharpsville Area School District and is a part-time faculty member in Westminster’s music department. When he leaves the classroom, however, you never know where he and his trumpet might show up next.

He has played with the Packard Band in Warren, Ohio, and with the Butler Symphony. He is a member of Second Avenue Project, a Shenango Valley band that plays wedding receptions and corporate affairs. They have a CD, but “it’s not out for general sale. It’s more of an audition piece for people who are looking for a band for an event.”

He is a member of Westminster’s Faculty Brass Quintet, where he sits next to his good friend and mentor, R. Tad Greig, an assistant professor of music and director of bands at the College. The two met as both were beginning their tenures on campus. Greig was starting to build the band program here with a vision and an enthusiasm that was contagious. Erb had played in school bands since the fifth grade but began his college freshman year as an undeclared major. “I just wasn’t sure I wanted to be a music major. Then I heard what Tad was planning and I wanted to be a part of it.” By the time Erb entered his second semester, he was a music education major.

“Tad wasn’t my adviser but he guided me a lot. He turned me on to good band music and guided me through it. As I was graduating, he told me, ‘When you get out in the real world, stay fresh, keep up with your music and keep playing. It will make you a better teacher.’ Now, if I’ve had a bad day and I’m ready to put the trumpet on the shelf, I remember his words.”

A versatile musician, Andy Erb is a member of many musical groups, including the Westminster Faculty Brass Quintet and a rock band, The Sugarfuzz Orchestra (left), who played at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

“While at Westminster, Andy was a musical and intellectual leader, active in the bands and choirs,” said Greig. “When the moment presented itself—the need for a trumpet instructor and the jazz ensemble director—I thought of no other. Not because he is an alumnus, but rather because he is the best person for the job. He continues to confirm my beliefs with every concert and every recital. I am very proud of him as a musician, educator and a family man.”

Because he enjoys a variety of music, Erb wants his students to experience it as well. “When my students play a new piece of music and one of them says a certain phrase sounds like a jazz lick, it’s one of those ‘light bulb’ moments: They see the way it all connects. That’s why I love teaching.”

The Sugarfuzz Orchestra is his rock group. They have played in Toronto; at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland; as an opening act for The Commodores when they came to Youngstown; and with the Bobby Blue Band.

“The students get a kick out of seeing me on the stage with Sugarfuzz. They say, ‘Hey! Look at that old guy up there!’”

-S.C.
The Road Not Taken

Longtime admirer of Frost blazes his own poetic trail

Now he can call himself a poet.
It used to be that Rob Smith would go to open mike nights and before he would read some of his compositions he’d add this introductory disclaimer: “I’m not really a poet.”

A retired minister who teaches part-time at Wright State University, Smith has been writing fiction since he was in high school, but very few of his works have been put forward for publication. Sure, he had written and self-published two novels, but he lacked the critical acclaim that would affirm his transformation into a full-time writer and poet.

That all changed when Smith entered his first poetry competition. Since Robert Frost has long been one of his favorites, he chose the contest sponsored by the Robert Frost Foundation. In a blind competition, this year’s judge selected Smith’s “Catbird” as the best poem written in the spirit of Frost. In all, more than 650 entries were received from poets representing 12 countries.

“Writing is often solitary, and it’s difficult for a writer to gauge the value of his/her work. The award came at a good time for me to gain some confidence,” Smith said.

Rob Smith ’69 was the 10th winner of the prestigious Robert Frost Poetry Award in 2006. The Ohio native’s poem “Catbird” was selected out of more than 650 submissions worldwide.

The inspiration for Smith’s winning poem came from an image of Westminster: the walkway that crosses the stream between Russell Hall and the Quad. But, Smith also credits the training he received from writing professors Chris Brown and Charles Cook.

“[Dr. Cook] embodied the value of small-college education,” Smith said. “I remember sitting in his office going over some of my poetry. It was not part of the curriculum, but an example of his commitment to instill a love of writing. He was a Frost scholar. I would say that my award is, in large part, a testimony to his success.”

Smith’s 31-year career in the parish and his stint at the university provided plenty of opportunities to write, but little time for what he calls “writing for pleasure.” He wrote his first novella in the early 1990s; a few years later he wrote Night Voices, his first published book, soon followed by his second novel, Children of Light. Now down to teaching a single section of an online course he developed, Smith is more focused on his budding writing career. He recently reworked his first novella, added a number of short stories to it, and submitted it to university press competitions. He has also submitted a collection of about 70 poems to various poetry book competitions. A sequel to Night Voices, titled Keelhouse, is also in the works.

“Though I have yet to show a profit on my income tax, I consider that I now ‘write for a living’ and view my pension checks as patronage for my craft,” Smith said. “With no excuses left, I have to write!”

Smith’s novels, Night Voices and Children of Light, are available from www.drinianpress.com.

-PB.
“We’re called as music educators to give experiences that add more richness to life,” said Cloonan, who teaches at West View Elementary and North Hills Junior High School. “In the words of Joseph Goodnack [assistant superintendent of the North Hills School District], ‘The core subjects (math, reading, science, etc.) are the black and white of our lives; music provides the color.’ I’m so grateful to be providing color in so many people’s lives, and am humbled by the recognition for just doing what I am lucky enough to do every day.”

Cloonan’s recognition came recently in the form of the 2006 Outstanding Young Conductor Award given by the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania. He was nominated by Robin Lind, Westminster’s director of choral activities. Lind joined Westminster in 2001, so she never had Cloonan as a student. But she has gotten to know him as a colleague and friend and was impressed by his abilities and his commitment to his students.

“Westminster can be very proud of him. He’s not only an excellent teacher and music director, but he finds time to help organize and host a one-day music festival for young men called Mucho Macho Music to encourage young men from grades six through nine to continue singing through this awkward stage of the changing voice,” Lind said.

A professor who has worked closely with Cloonan at Westminster, director of bands R. Tad Greig, says Cloonan’s performance as a student foreshadowed a great career in music.

“I’m not surprised to see this honor bestowed on Shaun,” Greig said. “I see this as only the beginning of what I am certain will be many more acknowledgments and awards.”

In addition to his teaching duties, Cloonan chaperones trips for the elementary students to listen to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra; helps to direct a school-wide “evening of the arts” where the students showcase their artistic and musical abilities; co-directs the North Hills Children’s Choir made up of fourth- through sixth-grade children; serves on the directorial staff of the junior high musical; and is music director of the church choir at First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood.

“I don’t feel like I do anything different than any other music teacher,” Cloonan said. “We are there for the success of the students, and if that means creating extra ensembles, hosting festivals, or taking students on trips to gain more experience, then that’s what we do. I learned about a caring environment from my experiences at Westminster. I felt the professors there went out of their way to make sure that I was being the most successful person I could be.

“I have to say that I am very fortunate to have found myself in these positions. I truly love the work that I do and the opportunities I have to work with people of all ages,” Cloonan said. “The hardest thing right now is finding time to do my own music making, but I’m working on that.”

-PB.
Inside the Actors Studio

Second-year grad student preparing for stage, film career

Knowing how critical the essay would be to his graduate school application, Robert Patrick Allen allowed himself some extra time to work on it. All right, a lot of extra time – more than two years. His diligence paid off big time when Allen was accepted into the MFA Reparatory program at the famed Actors Studio Drama School in New York City.

Allen is in his second year studying acting at The New School for Drama. (The New School and the Actors Studio had partnered for many years before recently parting ways.) The three-year program is under the direction of veteran actor Bob LuPone, an original Broadway cast member of *A Chorus Line* and brother of Emmy-nominated actress Patti LuPone.

“I began preparing my audition materials when I was a sophomore at Westminster,” said Allen. “I had to write an essay as I did for most of the other schools I applied to, however, The New School’s requirement was very tricky. I had to answer about six very complex questions about my career ambitions and graduate ambitions in about 300 words. Right away I knew I needed to be as concise and as articulate as possible. I literally worked and refined this essay for two and a half years to get it just right.”

The essay was just the beginning. Allen was granted an audition in March of his senior year while preparing for performances of *Tartuffe* at Theatre Westminster. Classmate Kauleen Cloutier served as Allen’s performance partner for the audition, which also required Allen to execute a monologue from *The Laramie Project*.

“About a month later, on a Saturday I was standing in the campus center when I received word that I had been accepted into the program. I was, of course, thrilled.”

The pace at The New School is, to say the least, bustling. Allen is taking nine classes, each of which requires outside rehearsal and homework. At the same time, he’s also rehearsing a full-length play, *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter, as a project for a director in one of his classes. An active playwright and director, Allen will focus on performance in his third year as he prepares for a career in theatre and film. The director of the Foundation Theater Camp held at Westminster the last two years, Allen is also eyeing a return to college as a professor.

“As long as I am always involved in the arts in some manner and have a venue to express myself artistically, I will be happy,” he said. “I certainly will be delighted to be paid to do what I love.”

A theatre lover since grade school, Allen ditched a second major in public relations to concentrate solely on theatre at Westminster, while picking up a minor in writing.

“Westminster really enabled me to spread my wings as an artist and try my hand at different aspects of the theatre,” Allen said. “I was able to write, direct and act, not only over at the main stage, but in the student lounge as well. The opportunities and exercises in collaboration and creating my own theatre were invaluable.

“Not to be forgotten is the outstanding instruction and guidance of Eileen Hendrickson, Scott Mackenzie, John Scott, Mick Slane, Andrew Ade, David Swerdlow, Evann Garrison, Jim Cherney and Jeff Bersett. Each of these individuals helped me in, and in many cases, out of the classroom. They all had an enormous impact on my growth as a person, writer, actor and director. To all of them I owe a huge debt of gratitude.”

-P.B.
The letters, cards and checks keep trickling in. They come mostly from friends and neighbors, co-workers and classmates, sorority sisters, fraternity brothers and former teammates. But then there are the others, the ones with not only unfamiliar return addresses in the upper left-hand corner, but unfamiliar names. Perfect strangers, who, it is discovered only after opening the envelope, share something in common – they were a swimmer at Westminster, too, or rushed at Sigma Nu half a century ago.

The overwhelming swell of well-wishes and assistance from friends and loved ones speaks volumes about the impact of a single person, Rich Sentner ’91, as he fights a nameless, faceless and relentless enemy. Meanwhile, the grass-roots support of those strangers who have rallied to his side speaks to the power of a loose-knit community willing to come together to meet the needs of one of their own at a time when the need is great.

Rich Sentner (center) with Jason George, Ed Tola, Mark Palmer ’91 and Mike Douds ’91 at the Swing for Sentner golf outing at Montour Heights Country Club.
Together and on their own, many groups – Rich’s former Baldwin High School buddies, professional acquaintances, Mt. Lebanon neighbors and a cadre of Westminster students, faculty, staff and alumni – have flocked to the aid of Rich, his wife, Erinn Dickson Sentner ‘91 and their two children, Anna, 7, and Evan, 4.

“My biggest stressor,” said Erinn, “is figuring out a way to show how appreciative we are and how blessed we feel with the outpouring of support we’ve received.”

Blessed. Erinn uses that word repeatedly in explaining their life nowadays. Surely, she can be forgiven if there are times when she feels decidedly less so.

The Rich Sentner she and many Westminster people knew was full of life, a gregarious and vivacious personality. A lifelong athlete, he was an All-American diver and a single-digit handicapper in golf who remodeled the kitchen and finished the basement when he and Erinn got married and moved into their home 10 years ago. He was quick with a joke and would do just about anything to lighten the mood and keep everyone smiling.

“He was the type of guy who was always cracking jokes, but not at other people’s expense,” said Patrick Sentner ’90, Rich’s brother. “He’d say, ‘I’m going to be a goofball or do whatever I can to lighten up the load.’ I don’t think he ever ticked anyone off.”

“I just remember him always being in a good mood,” said Westminster swim coach Rob Klamut. “He could totally crash and burn on a dive, do the worst backsmacker in the world, and he’d wince a little bit, but he’d laugh it off and get back on the board and try it again.

“He had a great personality, very fun to be around, the kind of person who would try to cheer you up if you needed it.”

That personality also helped to make Rich a successful salesman. He worked for Aetna for many years, building a strong and loyal client list, but as he branched out and began interviewing for other positions in 2005 and early 2006, he struggled. He began to have some difficulty speaking and expressing his thoughts, which affected his interviews. When they didn’t pan out, frustration began to seep in.

“He was feeling down about that, and we just thought it was depression,” Erinn said.

It soon became apparent that the problem was something more. One day, Rich wanted to use the microwave and tried to set the timer for two minutes. But his body wouldn’t cooperate. He was simply unable to make his finger press the proper buttons.

“That was a red flag,” said Erinn, who had been working at a pediatrician’s office part-time. “That’s when we knew it was neurological and not psychological. That began the battery of tests, beginning with a CT scan.”

For the past year, Rich has had virtually every kind of neurological exam that exists. With symptoms that resemble Alzheimer’s disease, it was thought for many months that Rich was suffering from early onset Alzheimer’s, a hereditary disorder that is extremely rare for someone in their 30s. In January, however, a brain biopsy confirmed that it wasn’t Alzheimer’s. But it’s no clearer what exactly is happening to Rich, other than he is suffering from a degenerative form of dementia. Doctors describe his case as atypical because there is no definitive diagnosis.

“It’s a relief that it’s not hereditary, so we don’t have to worry about that with the children,” said Pat. “But we don’t know ultimately where it’s going to go. It’s not a situation where they can go to the textbook and see how others were treated.”

“The change in diagnosis actually tells me we will not know how quickly or slowly and what type of degeneration will occur,” Erinn said. “He shows symptoms of Alzheimer’s, but he’s going to be all over the place. Maybe sometimes he shows symptoms of Parkinson’s or other diseases.

“We know what part of the brain it’s affecting, but where it goes from here, what part of the brain it proceeds to, we won’t know. The only thing we know is that it’s degenerative. Unless a miracle happens, he’s not going to get better. We’ve seen what’s happened in the last year, and we hope it stays at that pace or slower.”

One of the leading neurologists in the country, Dr. Steven DeKosky, the chairman and professor of neurology, psychiatry, neurobiology and human genetics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, agreed to see Rich and is slowly beginning to piece together the problem, but there is still no real plan of attack. The next stage of treatment for Rich is to start a steroid regimen once his surgical site is fully healed.

Rich’s medical problems have kept him out of work for almost two years now. He is unable to drive. The man who was so handy around the house now has difficulty hanging a photo on the wall. The gifted and hard-working athlete struggles to get through his once-weekly workout. He still goes golfing and hangs out with the guys when they’re watching the game on TV. He even corrects Erinn when she misremembers their anniversary date. But, clearly, things have changed.

Not surprisingly, the Sentners faced financial problems as medical bills piled up. Erinn has since gone to work full time at the pediatrician’s office, which is just five minutes from home, and a team of neighbors and friends have chipped in by babysitting and fixing meals. A local spaghetti dinner fund-raiser was extremely successful, with 1,400 people coming out on a rainy night. But it was the golf outing that Pat organized with the help of some of Rich’s classmates from Westminster and Baldwin High School that made the biggest impact.

Remarkably, the Swing for Sentner event Sept. 8 at the Montour Heights Country Club raised over $57,000 for the family.
“That was an amazing blessing, a huge weight off our shoulders,” Erinn said. “Here we are faced with all of these things and to have one of those alleviated for the time being is really helpful, which is such an understatement.”

In less than three months, Pat Sentner and a committee of seven, including Westminster alumni John Agnew ’91 (Rich’s college roommate), Bill Snyder ’90, Dave Holzworth ’89, and Mark Palmer ’91, coordinated an event by phone and e-mail that featured 138 golfers, food, drink and an auction that included such items as a signed Ben Roethlisberger jersey; a week’s stay in Myrtle Beach; a trip to Las Vegas; a Burton Morris autographed print; a Joe Paterno signed jersey and an autographed Mario Lemieux hockey stick.

The outing, which out-raised the events of more established charities, went off extremely smoothly. It was so well-received, in fact, that the weekend after Labor Day has become the official date for the event each year.

“To be honest, I was beyond pleasantly surprised. It far exceeded my expectations,” Pat said. “Is this something we can count on every year? No. But we don’t have to. From now on, we can work on putting some money away for the children and their education and raise money for research efforts.”

“I expected it might be 20-30 guys, a buddies-from-college kind of thing,” Erinn said. “But they had 144 golfers signed up and turned people away. Everybody was dumbfounded by that.”

The contribution from Westminster was tremendous. Thirty-eight of the golfers at the outing were Westminster alumni or students, plus many of them brought some of their friends to fill their foursome. Several alumni flew in from as far away as Atlanta to participate. Other alumni and Westminster staff served as sponsors or donated items for the auction.

Both Pat and Erinn credited the response to two factors: the generosity and connection among Westminster graduates and the impact of Rich’s personality on others.

“When people heard his name, they were more than enthused to help out in any way, shape or form,” Pat said.

“I think it speaks so much to the kind of person that he has been – a loyal friend and always so kind-hearted,” Erinn said. “It’s showing now what people will do for him.”

Both Rich and Erinn have rich histories with Westminster. Rich followed his brother at Westminster and got involved in Sigma Nu fraternity, student government and a host of organizations in addition to excelling as a diver and a student. Erinn was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and was the 12th member of her family to attend Westminster, including her brother, Marc Dickson ’81, her sister, Jody Dickson Flecken ‘81, and her parents, Frank Dickson ’56 and Mary Lou Walker Dickson ’56. Rich and Erinn dated for two years in college, then reunited three years later and were married in Wallace Memorial Chapel 40 years to the week after Erinn’s parents.

Beyond the golf outing, the support of Westminster and the surrounding area continued to roll in:

- The College’s sororities and fraternities teamed up to offer toys for Anna and Evan and gift cards for their Christmas shopping.
- Every Friday in the month of October, CiCi’s Pizza in New Castle donated a portion of its business to the Sentners.
- In lieu of exchanging gifts, Westminster’s Department of Athletics funneled their holiday contributions to the Sentners.
- Coach Klamut, representatives of the Westminster swim team and Sigma Nu teamed up to write letters to alumni of their organizations alerting them to Rich’s condition, adding information on how to make contributions to the family.

“I know Rich had so many friends here at Westminster that they would want to know and they would want to contribute,” Klamut said, adding that Sigma Nu swimmer Lee Knight helped coordinate the letters and represented the team at the golf outing. “Lee actually won the 50-50 there. It was over $1,000, and he donated it back to Rich. He said he didn’t need it as bad as they did.”

“We’ve received donations from Sigma Nu’s and swimmers, and we don’t even know half of these people,” Erinn said. “It speaks a lot about the quality of people who come out of this school.”

“It’s mind-boggling,” said Pat. “It’s one thing for our friends to be so supportive and that’s fantastic. But it’s even more moving to see checks from names we’ve never heard of before, people who have no clue who I am or who my brother is.

“You know, we talk about in church that when you give, you do receive. And last year I made my largest individual donation to Westminster. It’s funny, but that amount has been doubled – even tripled – in support for my brother. God works in mysterious ways.”

“It’s just amazing, the amount of support we’ve received,” Erinn said. “I just don’t know how to thank everyone.”

For more information on the Swing for Sentner golf outing and how to get involved, please contact Pat Sentner at (412) 321-4200 or psentner@naipittsburgh.com.

(Broadwater is editor of Westminster Magazine.)
54 Andy Sands is retired and living in Houston, Texas, with his wife, Ann.

64 Judith Evans Stout has retired as an education specialist in the Berks County Intermediate Unit. She makes her home in Wyomissing with her husband, Geoffrey.

66 Jane Breneman Busey was ordained in Sitka, Alaska, and installed as pastor of Guernsey (Wyo.) Presbyterian Church (USA) and Ft. Laramie Community Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, David, are the parents of two children, including Mary Ellen Busey ’01.

Norma Eppeley Hughes has retired as a postal service senior clerk. Her husband, David Hughes ’65, is also retired. The couple lives in Ebensburg.

Virginia Gray Hastings is a teacher at Agape Christian High School. Ginny and her husband, Tim, reside in West Frankfort, Ill.

Marilyn Miller Prengaman and her husband, Dave, live in Arlington, Texas, where Marilyn is semi-retired from Paper Capers, a stationery, gift and wedding planning company.

David Rogers and his wife, Judy, reside in Brewster, Mass., where they are the owners/designers of Art in Green Landscapes, a design/construction firm.

The Rev. Robert Salmon is interim pastor at West Berlin Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Jackie, are residents of Alexandria, Ohio.

67 David Ricketts, a veteran food editor at national magazines and author of more than a dozen cookbooks, has recently published Eat to Beat Prostate Cancer Cookbook. The book features over 200 easy-to-fix recipes suitable for the whole family.

Thomas Yount and his wife, Cynthia Yount ’70, have relocated to Byron, Ga., where Tom is self-employed with Y&Y Enterprises, a developer and builder. Cynthia is a paralegal with Lynn, Yount, Hamilton, PC.

69 Chenis Pettigrew, director of admissions and student affairs at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work, was honored as a champion of education, culture and commitment by the university’s African American Alumni Council at their Sankofa Awards reception.

Woodrow Aaron retired after 35 years as a teacher and administrator in the Moon Area School District. His plans for retirement include travel with his wife, Jo Anne, and working part time with PA Cyber School. Woody and his wife live in Alequipa.

Ed Moses was selected to officiate as side judge at the NCAA Division III national championship football game between Mount Union College and Wisconsin-Whitewater. Retired as a teacher in the New Castle Area School District, Ed and his wife, Dianne, reside in Neshannock Township.

71 David Knight is a special education teacher who trains students and staff in issues of socialization and sexuality of people with severe and multiple disabilities. His wife, Nancy Vandewater Knight ’71, teaches special education at the Hampton School. The couple has two children and lives in Hampton, N.J.

Paul Roser retired as superintendent of Huffman Independent School District after 31 years in education. He is an independent contractor/consultant for various school districts in the Houston, Texas, area. His wife, Barbara Freund Roser ’76, is an educational diagnostician with Humble Independent School District.

74 Raymond Fabian has retired after 35 years teaching elementary school. He and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Sharon.

75 Kathleen Hollis Joyce teaches integrated language arts in grades 6-8 at Sacred Heart School in Oxford. She and her husband, Dan, and their two children live in Downingtown.

Dr. Bernadette Kuchter, a writer, speaker and family practice physician in Hermitage, is a quarterfinalist chosen from 1,700 entries for mystery novel in The Writer’s Network’s 13th Annual Writing Contest.

Christine Buchanan Ruschak and her husband, Randy, have relocated to Charlotte, N.C. Christine is a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Harris Road Middle School.

Michael Godowski was named to Who’s Who among American Teachers for 2006. He teaches at-risk students in the Mayfield City Schools, is an adjunct mathematics instructor at Cuyahoga Community College, and is an assistant football
coach at Hiram College. He makes his home in Eastlake, Ohio, with his wife, Patty, and their two children.

81 Amanda Engelhart
Brown of Lansdale is a sales representative with Audiomax, a multimedia company.

Chester James II and his wife, Lynn, and their two children live in Lewisburg. Chet is the president of G&M Bandsaw, Inc.

Barbara Wigton Weaver is a sales representative with M+L Supply Co., a laundry and dry cleaning sales firm. She and her husband, Ken, make their home in Cranberry Township.

83 Carl Schartner is a director for UPMC Health Plan. His wife, Cindy Bean Schartner, is a homeschool teacher to the couple’s nine children. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

84 Jay Cummings is director of Nomacorc L.L.C., a synthetic closure manufacturer. He and his wife, Lynn, are residents of Raleigh, N.C.

Roger Reeb, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Dayton, is the editor of Community Action Research: Benefits to Community Members and Service Providers. He and his wife, Tracy Jo Garris Reeb ’83, live in Centerville, Ohio.

Wade Smedley is senior human relations partner with Merck. He and his wife, Jill Bates Smedley ’86, and their three daughters reside in Nazareth.

85 Kathleen Yuhasz Woodard is a database administrator with Verizon Wireless. She lives in Cumming, Ga., with her husband, Rod, and their three children.

86 Jim Gette resides in Washington, D.C., where he is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice.

John Mouganis is a certified financial planner with Halcyon Financial Advisors in Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Rebecca, and their five children live in Sewickley.

Kay Pomroy has retired as a corporal with the Pennsylvania State Police. She has turned her hobby of woodworking into a second career, launching K.E. Pomroy Custom Woodworking in Manchester and Bethlehem.

87 Maria DiRienzo-Carbone is a senior pharmaceutical sales specialist for Sepracor. She resides in Stow, Ohio, with her husband, John, and their two sons.

Julia Lammel Fennell is an English professor and honors program director at the Community College of Allegheny County. Her husband, Robyn Fennell ’80, is a systems analyst with U.S. Steel. The couple lives in Pittsburgh.

88 Karen Hanchett is a life/parent coach, art teacher, and motorcycle coach in Pittsburgh.

90 Kelly Maloney Lynch and her husband, Gary, live in Norman, Okla., where Kelly is a supervisor of pre-service elementary education teachers at the University of Oklahoma.

91 Darby Hiebert Sawyer teaches language arts in grades seven and eight. She lives in Hartland, Vt., with her husband, Bruce, and sons. (See also New Additions.)

92 Joanna Aiello Strickland is a day care administrator at Little Soldiers Day Care. She and her husband, Craig, and son make their home in Warren, Ohio.

Dr. Sheri Mancini is a general surgeon at Carolina Surgery. She and her husband, Dr. Kenneth Williams, and their daughter are residents of Gastonia, N.C.

93 Clarke Baker has moved to Chesterfield, Va., and is a security sales consultant for Protection One.

94 Stephanie Uder DiCarlo is financial manager at Baierl Toyota. She and her husband, Ricky, live in New Castle.

95 Aimee Paul is a system programmer project leader with Bechtel Plant Apparatus, Inc. She and her husband, Jason Brown, live in Pittsburgh.

William Vonada recently became the principal at the junior-senior high school in the Cranberry Area School District. He and his wife, Lori Kaye Vonada ’98, reside in Fryburg.

96 Sharon Drayer Bantel is director of the victim witness assistance program for King William and King and Queen Counties in Virginia. She and her husband, Marc Bantel, and their twin daughters live in West Point, Va.

Dr. Frank Samarin and his wife, Amy Sheliga Samarin, and their two children have recently moved to Naugatuck, Conn. A physician with the U.S. Air Force, Frank is serving a residency in dermatology at Yale.

Andrew Tatusko is program director at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. His wife, Brenna Hartzell Tatusko, is a therapist with Home Nursing Agency in Altoona. Drew, Brenna and their son reside in Duncansville.

Kristopher Zook is a vocal music teacher and choir director at Red Bank Regional High School, and an adjunct music professor at Monmouth University. He and his wife, Amanda Gottschall Zook, ’97, are residents of Eatontown, N.J.
Alumni Spotlight: Amy Cross Evans ’99

Letters of Distinction
Unusual statistic, recommendations lead to guest ESPN gig

How many young women can say they lettered in college football? Not many. But one who can is Amy Cross Evans ’99, who earned her letter as a student manager of the Titan football team. An interesting bit of trivia, but what good is it? More than one might think.

As Amy tells it, “This unusual statistic for a woman caught the eye of ESPN Radio producers when I entered a contest to be the tailgate correspondent for the Ohio State vs. Michigan game [last November]. I entered the contest via e-mail and was notified, almost immediately, I had been chosen as one of 10 finalists.

“I called athletic director Jim Dafler and former head football coach Gene Nicholson ’69 to tell them the news and request letters of recommendation. Since there was no time for regular mail, they each sent a letter of recommendation to the producers of ESPN Radio via e-mail.”

She and her husband Shawn drove to Columbus, Ohio, the day before the game. There, during a follow-up interview, the producers were so impressed with Amy’s football knowledge and letters from Westminster, she was chosen the winner. She and Shawn were invited to a production meeting and dinner that evening with the ESPN Gameday cast and crew. On Saturday Amy spent the day “bouncing from tailgate lot to tailgate lot, talking to folks and calling in to the radio show for ‘remote reports from the field.’”

When not covering nationally broadcast football games, Amy and Shawn own SmallSpace, an art gallery in the historic district of downtown Wilmington, N.C. Amy can occasionally be found as a tour guide and driver on horse-drawn carriage tours of the city.

Although Amy has been away from campus for several years, her affection for Mother Fair has not waned: “My family at Westminster College continues to open doors and enrich my life. For this I am truly thankful.”

-Sandra Chandler

Kelly Augustine received a degree in government contracting from Defense Acquisitions University. She is manager, government contracting for the Northwest Commission, a community development and regional planning agency in Oil City.

Valentine Brkich was named director of marketing and recruiting for the Beaver Area Academic Charter School. He and his wife, Cassie, freelance for their company, Brkich Writing & Design.

Jason Call is a second- and third-grade building principal at Tennyson Elementary in the Sheffield/Sheffield Lake City Schools. His wife, Jennifer Bigelow-Call ’00, is a teacher for fourth-grade gifted and talented students in the Amherst Schools. The couple resides in Avon Lake, Ohio.

Megan McCaskey of Pittsburgh is a retirement plan account manager with Henderson Brothers, Inc.

Christina McClimans Williams and her husband, Stephen, live in Greenville, where Christina is a funeral assistant at Osborne Funeral Home.

Richard Ogrodowski has established Goldsmith & Ogrodowski, LLC, a law firm in Pittsburgh. Rich and his wife, Shawn Voelp Ogrodowski, make their home in Oakmont.

Stacie Pitts received her master of divinity degree from Union-PSCE in Richmond, Va. She is head of staff at First Presbyterian Church.

Rachel Strunk of Fredericksburg, Va., is education coordinator for MediCorp Health Systems.

Roberta Ward Sherbondy is a teacher for Intermediate Unit IV at the Frew Mill School in New Castle. Robin and her husband, Kenneth, reside in Greenville.

Michael Aey ’02, live in Canfield, Ohio, with their son.

Daniel Bell has been promoted from assistant superintendent to superintendent of the Shenango Area School District. He lives in New Castle with his wife, Stefanie, and their three daughters.

Jill Claypoole Jones is assistant production manager for Otis Spunkmeyer Inc., a bakery. She resides in Kittanning with her son.

Michael Lawrence received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and is a neuropsychologist with Michigan Medical, P.C. His wife, Paula Johns Lawrence, is an instructor at Sylvan Learning Center. The couple
resides in Rockford, Mich., with their daughter.

Benjamin Meighen of Washington received a master’s from Arcadia University. He is a physician assistant at Jefferson Regional Medical Center.

OO Christina Andrae of Greensburg is an admission and financial aid counselor at Saint Vincent College.

Kara Benedict Beresh is an assistant vice president, corporate banking officer with First National Bank of Pennsylvania. Her husband, Zachary Beresh ’02, is a graphic designer with American Auto-Matrix. Kara and Zach live in Pittsburgh.

Colton Donegan is an account executive with BTX Air Express, a freight forwarding and shipping firm. He lives in Lewis Center, Ohio, with his wife, Bethanie.

Tonya Hockenberry received her master’s from American Intercontinental University. She is a resident of Salisbury, N.C., where she is a fifth-grade teacher at Koontz Elementary.

Heidi Ludwiczak-Orrico, a teacher at Conway Elementary School in the Freedom School District, received her master’s in education and certification in special education from Slippery Rock University. She lives in Coraopolis with her husband, Rick.

Jamie Openbrier Bittner is associate director of development operations at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Jamie Schaeffer of Beaver is an international trade and compliance specialist at LANXESS Corporation, a chemical company of Bayer Corp.

Jerrod Stewart of Tipton is an area manager with Healthcare Services Group, a nursing home.

An anonymous donor has pledged $25,000 to the Young Alumni Scholarship Fund if each class between 1992 and 2006 can add 25 new donors this year. See your class is doing below. “Get on Board” and make a gift by mail, phone (724-946-7532) or online at www.westminster.edu/giving.

For more information on the Young Alumni Challenge, visit www.westminster.edu/youngalumni or contact your class agent.
Marriages

70
Bill Brown and Cynthia Jannot. The couple lives in Erie.

91
Clyde Parks Bailey III and Sandra Sinatra, June 16, 2006. Tom Punciello ’90 was in attendance. The couple resides in Carnegie.

92
Michael Haggerty and Jamie Burik, May 4, 2006, at the Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Brother of the groom Deean Haggerty ’98 was the best man. Mike is a manager at Palomino Restaurant in downtown Pittsburgh. The couple is currently building a house in Economy.

93
Antoinette Cwynar and Kenneth Glendenning, Oct. 23, 2004, in Wallace Memorial Chapel. Alumni in attendance were Luann Mastrangelo Cade ’92, Deborah Mastrangelo Martin, Christine Mastrangelo ’98, John Mastrangelo ’69, Kim Matteson Worster and Cindy Cooper Tracy ’80. (See also New Additions.)

Vaia Kolovos and Douglas Lupnacca ’96, Sept. 3, 2006, at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Castle. Vaia is a business systems analyst for PNC Bank; Douglas works in business applications development for Pharmcare.

96
Gwendolyn Myron and James Brunner, Oct. 14, 2006, at Heinz Memorial Chapel. A reception was held at the East Club Lounge of Heinz Field. Kristie Hupe Dietz was matron of honor and Emily Reilly Irvin and Amy Cook Leonard were bridesmaids. Jessica Ireland Lapinski, Valery Steffler Carimboli, Melissa Johnson and Allyson Geiger Doorley also participated in the wedding, and several other alumni were in attendance.
New Additions

98 Gina Groznik and Rob Steiner, April 16, 2005, at Sacred Heart Parish in Pittsburgh. Alumni participating in the wedding were Vanessa Kopiak, Shannon Walker Rower ’99, Mark Posel, Phil Park, and Chris McCarron ’99. (See also New Additions.)

Rebecca Zeitler and Christian Farrell, Nov. 11, 2006, in Hoboken, N.J. Rebecca is an account supervisor at HealthSTAR Public Relations in New York City. The couple resides in Hoboken.

99 Autumn Stewart and Christopher Saltmar ’95, June 17, 2006, at St. Bernard’s Parish in Mt. Lebanon. Alumni in the wedding party included Wendy Saltmar Skalniak ’92, Melissa Burns Putman ’98, Kristi Kaiser, Mindi Meehan Stry ’97, and Jeff Pepperney ’95. Autumn is a science teacher at Keystone Oaks Middle School, and Chris is a brand manager at GlaxoSmithKline. The couple lives in Mt. Lebanon.

Heather Lazzini and Nathan Barhorst, July 22, 2006, at St. Barbara’s Catholic Church in Bridgeville. Sarah Pavlik Rittle ’99 was matron of honor, and Laura Julian ’02 was maid of honor. Bridesmaids included Summerlea Hobbs Klinar ’01, Brianne Caldwell Sieg ’01 and Heather Gulgin Hilliard. Several other alumni were in attendance. Heather is assistant director of admission at the University of Dayton. The couple lives in Minster, Ohio.

Danyelle Muscarella and Matt Mastarone, Sept. 10, 2005, at Epiphany Catholic Church in Pittsburgh. Alumni in the wedding party included bridesmaid Lindsey Braem ’02 and groomsmen Marc Harkins ’00, Lee Stefanis ’02 and Shawn McGoran. Stacie Rameas Michael ’95 was a soloist. Danyelle is a sales and marketing representative for Ryan Homes. The couple resides in Brookline.

Nicole Quahliero and Justin Joseph ’04, Aug. 18, 2006, at St. Camillus Church in New Castle. Kiley Comnesso ’03 and Jamie Joseph Demase ’00 were among the bridesmaids, and Michael Cubelli ’04 and B.G. Davison ’04 were among the groomsmen.

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03 Molly Householder and James Phennicke III. The couple lives in Lehigh Acres, Fla.

Tawnya Brown and James Mann ’03. Tawnya is a middle school teacher and swim coach; Jim works in business development for Producers Supply. The couple lives in Clarksburg, W.Va.

Christopher Cronin and Mary Louise Simonich, July 1, 2006, at St. Titus Catholic Church, Aliquippa. Lindsay Onuffer and Katherine Miller were bridesmaids. Todd Wilson was a groomsman. The couple lives in Center, where Christopher is a social studies teacher at Center Area High School.

06 Amy Schroder and Andrew Winner ’04, June 10, 2006, at Wallace Memorial Chapel. Melissa Schroder Dorosh ’05 was matron of honor, and Christopher Borsani ’04 was best man. Also participating were Nicole Kress Dericks, Brian Lytle ’02 and Jason Davis ’04. Many other alumni were in attendance. The couple lives in Beaver Falls, where Andy is working toward his master’s in education and Amy teaches in the Blackhawk School District.

84 Keith Corso and his wife, Sally: a son, Michael Arthur, on Oct. 24, 2006. Keith is an instructor in the Department of Communication Studies, Theatre, and Art at Westminster.

87 Dr. Alicia Manenti and her husband, Dr. Joseph Ravagnani: twin daughters, Alexa Gabrielle and Gianna Marie, on July 24, 2006. The family lives in Broadview Heights, Ohio, where the new arrivals are welcomed by big brother Zachary, 5.

91 Darby Hiebert Sawyer and her husband, Bruce: a son, Morgan, in 2006. He joins Andrew (3), Christopher (10) and Woodrow (12). (See also Class Notes.)

Michelle Kovell Browett and her husband, Larry: a daughter, Alexis Danielle, on Aug. 28, 2006. Michelle is a French teacher at Seminole (Fla.) High School. The family resides in Largo, Fla.

Heather Vaughan Casturo and her husband, Christian: a daughter, Anne Vaughan, on Sept. 19, 2006. She joins Kay, 6, and Jack, 4, at home in Mt. Lebanon.

92 Dr. Brian Cross and his wife, Shelly: a daughter, Casey Elizabeth, on June 30, 2006. BJ is director of orthopaedic trauma surgery at Broward General Medical Center. The family lives in Weston, Fla.

Kristin Karas Holland and her husband, John: a daughter, Kasey Ruth, on May 27, 2006. Big brother Jack, 2, welcomed the new arrival at home in Leesburg, Va.

Carolyn Long Manko and her husband, Matthew: a son, Nicholas Glenn, on April 8, 2006. He is welcomed by brother Jacob, 5.
93 Antoinette Cwynar and her husband, Kenneth Glendenning: a son, Joseph Gregor, on Jan. 9, 2006. The family lives in Emmaus. (See also Marriages.)

Dr. Julianne Fulleroni and her husband, Bill Wolfe: a daughter, Linnea Marice, on Sept. 28, 2006. She joins Elias, 7, and Henry, 2. The family resides in Guan, where Julienne is a family physician with the U.S. Navy.

Michael Yoder and his wife, Christine: a daughter, Ava Elizabeth, on Sept. 30, 2006. The family lives in Bethel Park.


Lynn Martin Vitello and her husband, Chuck: a son, Andrew Connor, on Aug. 7, 2006. Lynn is vice president of marketing at Accipiter. The family resides in Morrisville, N.C.

95 Sarah Denny Sleazak and her husband, Brian Sleazak '92: a son, Mason Phillip, on Sept. 16, 2006. He joins sisters Avery, 6, and Maya, 2, at the family’s home in West Grove.

Cynthia May Bonetti and her husband, James: a daughter, Lacey Anne, on July 20, 2006. She is welcomed by Lindsay, 3. Cynthia is the director of financial aid at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The family makes its home in Pittsburgh.

96 Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Wohl and her husband, Eric Jackson: a daughter, Madison Reese, on Oct. 19, 2006. She joins brothers Logan, 4, and Carson, 2. A physician, Jennifer was recently named medical coordinator of the Women’s Behavioral Health Center at Akron General Medical Center. The family resides in Wadsworth, Ohio.

Stephen Murphy and his wife, Beth: a son, Patrick Stephen, on July 9, 2006. He is welcomed by Lily Grace, 2, at the family’s home in Greensburg.

97 Courtney Collier Abboud and her husband, Michael: a daughter, Alexis, on Dec. 20, 2005. The family resides in Louisville, Ky., where Courtney is director of workforce development at Metropolitan College.

Amy Miller Dehan and her husband, Brian: a daughter, Audrey, in 2006. The family lives in Cincinnati.

98 Jennifer Catterson Hough and her husband, Andrew Hough ’97: a son, Benjamin Connor, on Sept. 20, 2006. He joins big brother, Alex, 4, at the family’s home in New Wilmington.

Gina Groznik and her husband, Rob Steiner: a son, Robert John Steiner II, on March 26, 2006. Gina is agency administrator for SunDance Rehabilitation Corporation; Rob is a securities sales specialist with Mellon Bank. The family resides in Churchill. (See also Marriages.)

99 Lauren Cenci Caskey and her husband, Gary: a daughter, Megan Emily, on May 7, 2006. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

Rachel Jones Maize and her husband, Ian: a son, Ezra Foster, on Oct. 2, 2006. He joins Audrey, 2, at the family’s home in Norfolk, Va.


Jennifer Roth Harvey and her husband, Ryan Harvey ’99: a son, Mason Nathaniel, on June 7, 2006. He joins Cameron, 2, at the family’s home in Slippery Rock. Jennifer is pursuing a master’s of education in reading, and Ryan works for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Julie Wasczak Grubbs and her husband, Matthew Grubbs ’01: twins, a daughter, Charlotte Rose, and a son, Zachary Howard, on Sept. 14, 2006. The family resides in Streetsboro, Ohio.

00 Sandy Spence Blase and her husband, Michael: a daughter, Margaret Rose, on Feb. 26, 2006. The family resides in Waterford, Pa.

Heather Hendrickson Tracy and her husband, Todd Tracy: a daughter, Adeline Josephine, on Oct. 11, 2006.

Timothy Shelenberger and his wife, Jessica: a son, Micah Robert, on Aug. 21, 2006. Tim is a chemistry teacher at Laurel High School. The family resides in New Wilmington.

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.

29 Roy Vance of Eustis, Fla., Nov. 10, 2006. He was a retired research chemist with Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation. Survivors include four grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

31 Frank Colegrove of Sarasota, Fla., Oct. 31, 2006. He played tennis at Westminster and went on to become president of Allied Oil Co. in Cleveland. Survivors include one daughter.

Dr. Herbert Miller of Rutherford, N.J., Oct. 22, 2006. A graduate of Long Island College of Medicine, he operated a family medical practice for 56 years until his retirement at age 87. A Navy veteran of World War II, he was a member of the Board of Governors of Passaic General Hospital from 1941-1996. He was named Rutherford’s Citizen of the Year in 1985; was awarded Rutherford High School’s Distinguished Graduate Award; and was named by Westminster a winner of its Distinguished Alumni Award. Survivors include seven children, including Jim Miller ’68; a sister; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

36 Annette Bach Mercer of Pittsburgh, Oct. 29, 2006. She was formerly a teacher in the Shaler Area School District. Survivors include nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Nancy Litman Reeher of Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 13, 2007. An original faculty member of Penn Hills High School, she was a member of AARF, Wimodiaus, Busy Bees Bowling League and the Ladies Golf Association of the New Castle Country Club. She was also a member at First Presbyterian Church. Survivors include two sons and three grandchildren.

Perry Reeher of Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 11, 2007. A veteran of the Air Force stationed in Europe in World War II, he returned to the U.S. and attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School. During a long and prestigious law career he served as district attorney for Lawrence County from 1954-58; assistant solicitor for First Federal Savings and Loan (1964-70) and solicitor for First Federal (1970-91). He retired from practicing law in 1991 and moved to Raleigh in 2004. A 32nd-degree Mason, he was a member of the New Castle Country Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars and First Presbyterian Church of New Castle. Survivors include two sons and three grandchildren.

40 Melvin Miller of New Brighton, Nov. 13, 2006. A member of the basketball and football teams at Westminster, he was also a charter member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He taught and served as principal then superintendent in the New Brighton School District. He also served as principal at Riverside High School. He earned a doctorate in education from the University of Pittsburgh, was superintendent of schools in Blackhawk, and was a part-time faculty member at Geneva College. A member of the Beaver County Hall of Fame, he was a member of many professional and social organizations and was a Sunday school teacher, trustee and deacon at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church and then the Park Gate Baptist Church of Ellwood City. Survivors include his wife, Roberta; five children, including Melvin Miller Jr. ’68; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Charles Smiley of Beaver Falls, Sept. 1, 2006. The nephew of former Westminster president Robert Galbraith, he had retired from GTE and was an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include his wife, Eileen; three children; and five grandchildren.

Frank O’Hara of Mechanicburg, Dec. 30, 2005. He was retired from PPG Industries, Inc. Survivors include his wife, Nora Blood O’Hara ’44.

41 The Rev. F. Bruce Johnston Sr. of Willoughby, Ohio, Oct. 12, 2006. He was pastor emeritus of Noble Road Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and also served at Presbyterian churches in Pittsburgh (1949-52), Akron (1952-63), and Wheeling, W.Va. (1963-68). He retired from Noble Road in 1984 and became involved in the formation of the University Circle Chapter of the AARP, serving two years as president. He received a master’s of business administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1943 and was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Westminster in 1946. A veteran of World War II, he served in Europe as a chaplain’s assistant. Upon returning from the war he attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, graduating in 1948. Survivors include three sons, including F. Bruce Johnston Jr. ’72 and his wife, Sue Snavely Johnston ’73; and six grandchildren, including Megan Johnston ’05.

43 Dr. Paul Jamison of Mechanicburg, Oct. 18, 2006. Born in Egypt where his father was a missionary chaplain, he attended the Schutz American School in Alexandria and the Stony Brook School in New York before attending Westminster. He later received his M.D. from Boston University School of Medicine while serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served as a medical missionary with the UP church in Tanta, Egypt, for 25 years. After returning to the U.S., he completed a three-year psychiatric residency at the University of Vermont. He practiced psychiatry for 18 years before retiring to Mechanicburg. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Mary Martha Orr Jamison ’42; a brother, the Rev. Wallace Jamison ’40; four children, including Glenn Jamison ’66; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.


46 Sue Boliver Baird of Millmont, Nov. 6, 2006. She was employed as a reading teacher for many years in the Millinburg Area School District. Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law; two stepdaughters; and two grandchildren.

Donald Haight of Pittsburgh, Dec. 12, 2006. He was formerly a systems designer for USX Corporation. Survivors include his wife, Margaret.


48 Joseph Gleeson Jr. of Mexico City, Mexico.

49 Dr. Thomas L. Heatley of Mercer, Jan. 8, 2005. He was a retired dentist.

Lydia Zahariou Love of Fayetteville, Ga.,

51 Natalie McKenzie Barthelson Crogan of Erie, Oct. 21, 2006. She taught school for 30 years in Erie and was past president of the Erie Women’s Club and Christian Women’s Club. Survivors include three daughters; one son; one stepson; one stepdaughter; one brother; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert A. Thompson of Peyton, Colo., Aug. 27, 2006. He was a retired teacher and coach. Survivors include his wife, Elsie.

52 Leon Myers of Sandy Lake, July 11, 2006. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. In 1946 he began teaching business education in Stoneboro, retiring in 1977. He was past president of Pennsylvania State Education Association, Mercer County Chapter and was an active member of the Sandy Lake Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife, Edith; three daughters; a son; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.
Kay Barrett Craig of Mentor, Ohio, July 4, 2006. She volunteered extensively with the American Red Cross and crafted a successful career in the medical field. She was administrative director for Pathmark Inc. from 1991-95 and director of operations for Billing Time, Inc. from 1995-97. In retirement, she was active on the board of the Ohio Parkinson Foundation. She was an active member of the Church of the Covenant and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Survivors include three children and a sister, Marcie Barrett DeSiena ’59.

Regis Buser of Shorewood, Wis., March 28, 2006. He retired in 1991 after a career of nearly 50 years in the tanning industry. A World War II veteran, he is 50 years in the tanning industry. He married in 1991 after a career of nearly 50 years in the tanning industry. He is the father of two sons and five grandchildren.

Dr. Robert W. Thompson of Franklin, Aug. 26, 2006. He was a dentist. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law.

Neale Hassel of Clearwater, Fla., Nov. 27, 2006. An Army sergeant during World War II, he served 20 years in the Army Reserve. He taught at Largo and Dunedin high schools and for the Pinellas Juvenile Detention Center. He also taught tennis until the age of 80. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Nancy; a daughter; a son; a sister; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

Beth Patton Paul of Tiffin, Ohio, Sept. 19, 2006. She was formerly a learning disabilities tutor for the Tiffin schools. Survivors include her husband, George.

Edgar Gray of Toronto, Ohio, Nov. 12, 2006. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn Ferguson Gray.

Alma Jean Karlovic of Hubbard, Ohio, July 2006. She was also a teacher in the Howland School District.

Harriett Laughlin Stuck of Beaver, Nov. 24, 2006.

Stephen Koren of Struthers, Ohio, June 26, 2005.

Eugene Tiller of Washington, D.C., Sept. 27, 2006. At various times he lived in Erie; Ossining, N.Y.; Columbia, S.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Canberra and Toowoomba, Australia; and Washington, D.C. He traveled extensively, hitchhiking all over Europe on more than one occasion, once sleeping in a church bell tower in Sweden. One summer he held a job on a ferry boat in Michigan; another summer he worked at a concession stand at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. He tapped the Internet when most hadn’t yet heard of e-mail. He taught himself to play the guitar by practicing for ten minutes a day. He gave his daughter a digital camera when she was not yet four years old and taught her to shoot like an expert. He drew trucks for his son that captured the imagination of all. Survivors include his wife, Christine O’Reilly; a daughter; a son; two sisters; his father and stepmother; aunts, uncles, nephews, cousins and members of the King family.

Christopher Bankert of Springfield, Mass., May 29, 2006. He was a mechanical engineer and plant superintendent with Contech Construction Products. Survivors include his wife, Kimberly Marr Bankert ’94; his mother and stepfather; two sisters-in-law; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law.

Russell Grant Culbertson III, of Amity, Oct. 17, 2006, in Iraq. He was a corporal in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and many other medals and awards for his service. Survivors include his parents, Russell Grant Culbertson II ’76 and Denise King Culbertson ’76; his maternal grandparents, including William H. King ’39; his paternal grandparents; a brother; a sister; and an aunt.

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 ____________________________
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Social Security Number ______________ I.D. Number (see mailing label) _______________
Occupation __________________________
Name of Employer ____________________ City __________________ State ___________ Zip ___________ – _______
Home Telephone _____________________ Business Telephone ___________ Cell Phone ___________
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. _______________________
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