Dear Westminster Friends:

I recently came across a “to do” list I had written for myself after arriving on campus ten years ago. Numbers one through nine included intentions to: create institutional confidence and optimism; create financial stability; build a distinctive integrated curriculum; build integrated extracurricular offerings (athletic participation, student organizations, intramurals); build the faculty (Faculty Development Program) and staff (training); build a center for excellence in teaching and learning that will advantage students in getting into grad schools or finding jobs in their chosen fields; improve the campus and its facilities; extend Westminster’s reach; continue institutional momentum while building endowment (per student).

Westminster’s momentum has carried it past the $100,000,000 mark in the endowment, but we are just beginning to see the way in which endowment will secure the College’s future. I urge you to read the article on page 13 entitled “College Costs: Westminster Fund Shifts Focus to Annual Scholarships.” Then think about a Westminster that will be able to offer scholarships to all well-qualified students so that their cost of tuition would be cut in half with the use of endowment income. In today’s dollars a $200,000,000 endowment would begin to accomplish just that.

It is not coincidental that if you look at the top 50 national liberal arts colleges you will see that they have the highest levels of endowment on a per student basis. Typically, up to 50 percent of students’ expenses are supported by endowed scholarships at such schools meeting their financial need while limiting loan burdens.

A residential liberal arts education of the highest quality is labor intensive and expensive. As college expenses continue to increase in the years ahead, Westminster can provide a superior program of financial aid as the amount of endowment per student continues to improve.

There are many of you who are building endowed scholarships at Westminster. It is a wonderful way to leave a legacy for generations upon generations to come. It is my hope that many more alumni will seek out the opportunity to provide for the future of the College and her students. The words inscribed in the Bell Tower Room of Old Main ring true year after year: “We have all been warmed by fire we did not build and drunk from wells we did not dig…”

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Williamson
Spring 2007

Westminster

College Magazine

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Photo Credits . . .

Front and Back Covers – Tiffany Wolfe

Patrick Broadwater has returned to his hometown of Buffalo after eight years of exemplary service as Publications Director and editor of Westminster Magazine. We welcome Elizabeth Fontaine Hildebrand ’92 to the Communication Services team. Betsy looks forward to sharing the stories that make Westminster special.
Tokar Appointed Dean of Admissions

Bradley P. Tokar ’91 was appointed dean of admissions and financial aid. He served the past year as interim director.

“Brad has shown great dedication to the College and prospective students and their families,” according to President R. Thomas Williamson. “He is well known by students, parents, alumni, guidance counselors and colleagues as a hard-working person of integrity who has the ability to uphold academic standards while projecting Westminster across an ever-widening landscape.”

Tokar has worked in Westminster’s Admissions Office since 1993 and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Westminster. He and his wife, Brooke ’00, reside in New Wilmington with their four children.

Westminster Students ‘Get Real’

The “Get Real” life preparation series was developed to acquaint students with information about life after college. It provides advice about financial planning, banking, purchases, medical care issues and options, consumer and personal legal matters, comparative shopping, understanding labels, reading maps, apartment and house hunting tips, outdoor activities, and how to avoid finding Mr./Ms. Wrong.

“Our goal is to open students’ eyes about what to expect after graduation, the nuances of life that are not typically covered in the formal classroom,” said Neal Edman, dean of student affairs.

Music Major Seeks Miss Pennsylvania Crown

Sarah Timm, a senior music education major from St. Marys, will compete in the 2007 Miss Pennsylvania contest June 23. Timm was crowned Miss Moraine State of America. The Miss Moraine State/Miss Butler County pageant is an official Miss Pennsylvania of America preliminary pageant. Her brother, David Timm ’08, and sister, Leah Timm ’10, also attend Westminster.

Westminster Group Conducts Mission to Mexico

Associate Professor of Education William Evans holds a child at the Beth Orphanage and Oasis Boys Home/Vocational School in Mexico. Seven Westminster students accompanied Evans, his son, and Young Presbyterian Scholars Program Coordinator Carey Anne Meyer LaSor ’86 on a weeklong mission trip during spring break.

SIFE Wins Regional Competition

Westminster College’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team won its division at the regional SIFE competition held in Chicago in April.

“They went into the competition with the goal of winning, but with the realistic hope of placing as one of the finalists in its division,” said David Smith, assistant professor of accounting.

SIFE was led by president Brett Turk and his fellow officers: vice president Jared Foster, secretary Meredith Muller, treasurer Amanda Petrovich, publicity chair Marissa Catanzarite, and historian Deborah Ward. The organization put together a solid list of community service accomplishments.

“The goal of SIFE is to promote financial, economic and ethical well being in the community by applying members’ knowledge and experiences in areas of market economics, entrepreneurship, business ethics, financial know-how, and skills needed to survive in today’s financial world. These goals were incorporated into the group’s projects,” Smith said.

Visit www.westminster.edu/news for more details about these stories and the latest information about Westminster.
Student’s Undergraduate Research Leads to Elite Summer Research Program

Brett Turk, a junior psychology/human resources major from New Castle, was chosen by the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) to spend the summer working on research at Oklahoma State University related to his Westminster honors thesis. “There are typically about 150-200 who apply for this honor and the people chosen are usually from much larger institutions,” Turk said. “This was a long shot, and I’m very happy I received such a quality education here that I can compete against those odds.”

Turk’s Westminster honors thesis, “Idiosyncratic Working Arrangements and Their Relationship to Organizational Attitudes and Behaviors,” relates to the research that he will conduct with Dr. Marie T. Dasborough and Dr. W. Matthew Bowler this summer.

This eight-week research program runs through July 25 and includes free transportation to Oklahoma State, a stipend, and lodging, as well as all supplies needed for the research. “Dr. [Jamie] McMinn [assistant professor of psychology] guided me toward this internship experience,” Turk said. “He wrote a recommendation letter and helped me with the application, but I had the support of all the professors here. They help to guide me just as my mom would if I were home.”

“Brett’s honors project focuses on specialized work arrangements that employees negotiate with their organizations and the consequences those arrangements have for job satisfaction and other organizational outcomes,” said McMinn, Turk’s academic and honors advisor. “Surprisingly, this area has not received much attention from organizational psychologists, and so Brett’s research is really quite important. The NSF-REU program will be invaluable to Brett as he collaborates with nationally-recognized experts in organizational behavior and members of the psychology department could not be more pleased that he has earned this prestigious opportunity.”

Chemistry Majors, Faculty Present at National Conference

Five senior chemistry majors and three faculty members presented research at the American Chemical Society conference in Chicago.

Peter Smith, assistant professor, presented two papers: “Luminescence of Tripodal Amine and Aminophenol Complexes of Europium (III)” and “Characterization of Group 3 and Lanthanide Oxide Powders Formed via Precipitation Stripping.” He presided over a session and is a member of the Younger Chemists Committee.

Helen Boylan ’95, assistant professor, represented the department at the open meeting of the Committee on Professional Training.

Timothy Sherwood, associate professor, attended as a member of a committee to work on the Diagnostic Undergraduate Chemical Knowledge exam to assess graduating chemistry majors. The exam, from the Examination Institute of the American Chemical Society, will become available in 2008.

Valerie Kokai presented two posters: “Toward Soy-Based Dental Composite Materials,” her honors research project; and “The Synthesis of Novel 5- and 6-Substituted Quinazoline Antimalarial Compounds” from her summer research experience in Thailand. Boylan co-authored.

Kyle Schuyler presented “Synthesis of N-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-N’, N’-bis-(2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)amino-ethyl)-ethane-1, 2-diamine for Bonding to Lanthanide Ions,” his senior research project co-authored by Smith.

Andrew Starosta presented “Novel Method for the Tritiation of Photoactivatable Ligands,” his senior research project co-authored by Smith.

Joelle Wells presented “Rain Repellent Interference with Automotive Glass Filler Adhesion,” her senior research project co-authored by Boylan.

Amy Wirtz presented “Extraction of Lactic Acid from Aqueous Solution Using Ionic Liquids with Trialkylamine and Tetraalkylammonium Salt-Based Extractants,” her honors research project co-authored by Smith.

Math Teams Earn Meritorious Ranking

Two of the four teams of students representing Westminster in the international Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM) earned meritorious honors.

Of the 949 teams participating in the contest, only 122 teams received such an honor. Two meritorious teams from one college placed Westminster with the elite of the contest. Westminster was noted for having four teams, the maximum number of MCM teams allowed on one campus.

The team of Bryan Bischof, Andrew Polack, and James Bryan earned a meritorious ranking for a paper on efficiently loading passengers onto an airplane, while the team of Ryan Brolly, Ryan More, and Anthony Colwell earned a meritorious ranking for a paper on gerrymandering.

Designed to provide students with an experience similar to that which a qualitative scientist or applied mathematician is likely to encounter in industries or research laboratories, the contest challenges students to clarify, analyze, and propose solutions to open-ended problems. Students and advisers from more than 500 institutions from around the world participated in the contest, according to Barbara Faires, professor of mathematics and adviser to the teams.

Visit www.westminster.edu/celebrity for this year’s exciting season.

Undergraduate Research Symposium Showcases Students

The Undergraduate Research Symposium held at Westminster April 28 featured posters, displays, and oral presentations from 63 students. The event preceded the Honors Convocation.

“There were over 60 displays presented,” said Virginia Tomlinson, director of the Westminster College Drinko Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. “It was all made possible by the contributions of the students, their faculty advisors, and many other individuals of the Westminster family.”

The primary mission of the Drinko Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is to enrich undergraduate education.
Faculty Making News

Shahroukh Mistry, assistant professor of biology, was chosen as recipient of the 2007-2008 Henderson Lectureship Award. Mistry’s research focuses on how global climate change can influence the distribution of species, in particular the range extension of the vampire bat in North America.

The Henderson Lecture will take place Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Witherspoon Maple Room of the McKelvey Campus Center. The Henderson Lecture was founded by Dr. Joseph Henderson and his wife, Elizabeth, to encourage and recognize original and continuing research and scholarship among Westminster College faculty, and to share their research with the academic community. Henderson is professor emeritus of education and former chair of the department and director of the Graduate Program.

Sherri Pataki, peace studies director, attended the Inter-American Summit on Conflict Resolution Education: International Innovations and Challenges in Cleveland. “This was an exciting opportunity for me to hear about peace studies curriculum,” Pataki said. “I learned about programs at other colleges and universities and considered new ideas for our Peace Studies program at Westminster.”

David Cushman, professor of economics, presented a paper, “The Unlikely Unit Root in U.S. Real GDP,” at the Eastern Economic Association Conference in New York. “Real GDP (gross domestic product) is an inflation-adjusted measure of the country’s income and output,” Cushman said. “Its movements through time consist of an underlying upward trend and unexpected movements or random shocks. Policy makers are interested in whether the shocks tend to be temporary or permanent. The prevailing wisdom is that shocks to GDP are generally permanent. If so, GDP is said to have a ‘unit root.’ The finding in my paper is that the unit root is rejected if the statistical tests allow for a gradually changing trend instead of the unchanging trend used in past papers. The rejection of the unit root means that shocks to GDP are generally temporary, in contrast to the prevailing wisdom.”

Suny Press published “The International Eliade” edited by Bryan Rennie, the Vira I. Heinz Professor in Religion at Westminster College. “This is the fourth book that I have published on Mircea Eliade,” Rennie said. “I have one monograph in 1996, one critical reader in 2006, which anthologizes essays by and about Eliade for the beginning researcher, and now two collections of essays about Eliade by contemporary scholars of religion.” “The International Eliade” is a collection of essays from authors from non-English speaking countries including Japan, Korea, Romania, France, Germany, Norway, Belgium, and Italy.

R. Tad Greig, music education assistant professor and director of instrumental activities, presented a lecture at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association State Convention in Hershey. Greig’s session, titled “Band Music Selection: What and Why,” discussed research results and information from his doctoral dissertation and offered suggestions on what to consider when selecting music that both enlightens and educates. This presentation marked Greig’s third lecture in the past five years at the Pennsylvania State Music Convention and culminates an active semester for Greig, who has made several guest conducting appearances and has filled many PMEA adjudication judging duties.

Matthew Sivils, assistant professor of English, had his article, “Reading Trees in Southern Literature,” published in The Southern Quarterly. “My article focuses on how tree imagery in the works of southern writers such as William Faulkner, Zora Neale Hurston, and Eudora Welty is connected to issues of both environmental and racial oppression,” Sivils said. “I argue that southern literary trees—especially so-called ‘bottle trees’ and those trees associated with racial violence—serve as connecting points between both the people and the natural world of the South.”

Phyllis Kitzerow, professor of sociology, presented research at the Southwestern Sociological Association meeting in Albuquerque. “At this point, this is a photo essay based on the examination of two cemeteries in very different areas,” Kitzerow said. “The tombstones in each cemetery reflect the individual information conveyed by the decoration of the tombstone and the glimpse of the lifestyle of the individual, or couple, it represents. Seeing tombstones as clues to this lifestyle and attempts to represent it, reminds us of the effort that goes into memorializing death.” Kitzerow said that although she presented this as an exploratory paper, it is related to the earlier work on obituaries with Shannon Smithey, Westminster assistant professor of sociology.
Students Participate in Psychology Convention

Four psychology students attended and presented research at the 35th annual Hunter College Psychology Convention/11th annual North East Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience (NEURON) conference in New York City in April.

NEURON provides an open forum for neuroscience students to present and discuss their work with students and faculty who share similar interests. The annual one-day conference that focuses on enhancing neuroscience training provides workshops in which students and faculty discuss important issues in neuroscience. The diversity of the agenda allows for a well-rounded opportunity for all attendees to engage in rigorous science, while promoting the development of neuroscientists in training.

Alan Gittis, professor of psychology, served as an adviser and supervisor for the students:

Kristin Tarzia, a senior neuroscience and psychology major, presented “Modeling the Development of Depression: Contribution of Acute and Chronic Stress on Rat Performance in the Morris Water Maze.” Lindsey Davis, a senior neuroscience major, presented “The Involvement of the Anterior Cingulate Cortex in Effort-based Decisions with Varying Reward Probabilities.” Melissa Gnech, a sophomore neuroscience major, presented “Choice Behavior in Rats: Spatial Strategy or Neuroeconomic Decision Making?” Alexandra Aliferi, a freshman neuroscience major, also attended the conference.

Physics Major Takes Top Honors

Colin Campbell, a senior physics major from Poland, Ohio, recently took top honors for his poster presentation at the joint meeting of Zone 7 of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and the Western Pennsylvania Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). Campbell presented a poster titled, "The Depinning Transition of Periodically Oscillated Sessile Drops." His research was done with advisor Craig Caylor, assistant professor of physics. Physicists at the meeting judged the student posters.

Miller Wins First Place at Conference

Amanda Miller, a junior English major from Pittsburgh, was awarded first place for her paper, “Cycles and Femininity in Nature,” at the New Philosophy and Religious Studies Conference held at St. Francis University in Loretto, Pa., in March.

Also attending and presenting papers at the conference were Rennie Greenfield, an English and religion major from Poland, Ohio; and Zoe Anthony, an English and religion major from Campbell, Ohio. Bryan Rennie, associate professor of religion, and David Goldberg, assistant professor of philosophy, served as judges.

“Everyone was particularly impressed with Westminster,” said Dr. Arthur Remillard, the organizer of the conference. “In particular, your questions were pointed, intriguing, thought provoking, and fair. If people walked away from this conference remembering it as intellectually stimulating, it will be because of your presence, and I want to give a special word of thanks to you.”

Students Attend Philosophy Conference

Twelve students attended the 31st annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference at the University of Memphis.

“This has become an annual event, and the fifth time I have taken Westminster students to this conference,” said David Goldberg, assistant professor of philosophy. Goldberg also commented on a paper, “Revisiting Gadamer’s Schleiermacher Interpretation,” by Lawrence Schmidt from Hendrix College.

“The Midsouth conference is one of the largest regional meetings and attracts scholars from around the nation and world. Most participants are either employed faculty or graduate students, making Westminster College’s contingent of undergraduate students one of the largest at the conference,” Goldberg said.

Williamson Elected Chair of APCU

Westminster College President R. Thomas Williamson was elected as the new chair of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities (ACPU). His term will run through April 2008. Williamson has served on the APCU board since 2003.

APCU is an independent, not-for-profit, organization of 61 colleges and universities that are historically related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). The association exists to promote these institutions, to advocate the mission of higher education in the Reformed tradition, to strengthen the relationship of its member colleges with the PC(USA) and to be a resource to the member college presidents and their staffs.
Westminster Hosts 20th Annual Christy Lecture

Adam Gould, founder of the Kenya Children Project, spoke on “Finding Hope in Brokenness” at the 20th annual Christy Lecture in Wallace Memorial Chapel.

Gould, who is a graduate of Grove City High School and Eastern University with a degree in youth ministry, traveled to Kenya to do a one-year internship with the Mavuno Church in 2005. After spending only four months in Kenya, he was pulled in a different direction, and started a holistic education project in the Mathare Slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Wayne H. Christy Lecture Series annually honors Dr. Wayne H. Christy, who was a long-time faculty member and chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Westminster College. The program seeks out men and women who distinguish themselves by relating religion to issues of contemporary life.

Environmental Lecture Series Continues

Energy expert Christopher Flavin discussed “Breaking America’s Oil Addiction” as part of Westminster’s Distinguished Speaker Series, Perspectives on the Environment. The series, funded by a grant from the Lewis Foundation, explores the economic, social, religious, political and security aspects of environmental issues.

“To acquire knowledge of, and to demonstrate moral and ethical commitments to, the natural world is an integral part of a liberal arts education at Westminster,” said Shahroukh Mistry, assistant professor of biology and series coordinator. “This speaker series is an important step toward developing an interdisciplinary and cooperative approach to engaging students in becoming knowledgeable and responsible stewards of the natural world and their communities.”

Renninger receives national award from fraternity

D. Scott Renninger Jr., chair and associate professor of physical education, head tennis coach, and interfraternity council advisor, recently received the Floyd W. Field Award for Outstanding Greek Affairs Professionals, a national award given by the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi fraternity.

“Coach Renninger has selflessly put the Greek system at Westminster before himself. He spends many hours outside of the regular work day to assist the fraternities at Westminster College,” states the letter of recommendation written by local members of the Theta Chi fraternity.

Theta Chi awards one Floyd W. Field Award each year to a professional who exemplifies the fraternity’s motto of The Helping Hand by reaching out to students in all areas.

Renninger, who has been with Westminster College since 1978, earned his undergraduate degree from Heidelberg College and master’s from Eastern Michigan University. He earned Presidents’ Athletic Conference Coach of the Year honors for women’s tennis in 2006. In 2002, he was the first recipient of the award established in his name by the Westminster Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils, the Coach Scott Renninger Greek Service Award.
Business plan for sports bar earns first place win in scholarship competition

Matthew Dangel, Ashley Carnahan, Cortney Fry, and President R. Thomas Williamson

Courtney D. Fry, a rising senior majoring in accounting and music from Smithville, Ohio, won the 2007 David W. Edward Entrepreneurship Scholarship Competition, presented by the Westminster College Department of Economics and Business.

The competition requires students to prepare and present a business plan depicting the creation of a new or substantially improved business, product, or service, or some combination of those three.

Fry's business plan detailed the development of a sports bar in Wooster, Ohio. The business plan concept included the complete redesign and furnishing of a strategically located, existing facility. Her plan presented a well-documented market analysis of both the target customer base and the competitors, as well as addressed the growth and changes occurring in the bar/restaurant business. Her plan summarized her business expectation with a financial projection covering

Matthew D. Dangel, a rising junior accounting and business administration major from Saegertown, placed second with a business plan for a manufacturer of wood home heating fuel and related products. Ashley L. Carnahan, a rising junior business administration major from Greensburg, won third place with a plan for a contemporary bowling alley geared primarily towards youth bowling.

Student Receives Grant to Further China Research

Jessica Wiedmann, an elementary education major, has been awarded a Drinko Center Grant to further her research in China this summer on the “Unwanted Children of China.”

She will present her research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in spring 2008.

“Enhancing opportunities for undergraduate research is an important component of the work of the Drinko Center in enriching undergraduate education,” said Dr. Virginia Tomlinson, Westminster College associate professor of sociology and director of the Drinko Center. “The Undergraduate Research Initiative provides funding for students to conduct research and to present their research at regional and national conferences.”

Do you know a prospective student who would do well at Westminster?
Contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-942-8033 or e-mail admis@westminster.edu

Westminster College Nominated Scholarship Opportunities...

Jerb Miller Scholarship
Westminster College alumni employed in the education field can nominate a deserving student for a four-year, $60,000 Jerb Miller Scholarship. The nominated student must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Nominations must be received by Oct. 31, and the nominated student must apply by Nov. 15. Only 100 Jerb Miller Scholarships are available. Visit www.westminster.edu/jerb for additional information, including an online nomination form. If you’re not employed in the education field, please remind your Westminster educator friends to nominate a deserving student for the Jerb Miller Scholarship.

Young Presbyterian Scholarship
Westminster College offers up to 100 four-year, $60,000 Young Presbyterian Scholarships each year to deserving students from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations. The students must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average and be recommended by their pastor. Nominations must be received by Oct. 31, and the nominated student must apply by Nov. 15. Visit www.westminster.edu/yps for additional information, including an online nomination form. Please help deserving students by making sure the pastor of your local Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) takes advantage of this worthwhile program.
Sports Update

Winter Sports Roundup

MEN’S BASKETBALL
(18-9, 10-2 PAC)

The Westminster men’s basketball team enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2006-07, as the Titans made their first-ever appearance in an NCAA tournament game.

Led by fourth-year head coach Larry Ondako, the Titans compiled a record of 18-9, which included a 10-2 mark as the top-seeded team in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) Tournament before being upset by eventual champion Grove City in the semifinals.

Westminster was the league’s only team invited to NCAA Division III Tournament, before losing a thrilling game at John Carroll, 87-83, in front of a standing-room only crowd of 1,307.

Senior guard Greg Rosatelli, who earned first-team All-PAC honors, led the PAC with 5.56 assists per game and ranked fifth in the league with a 15.6 scoring average.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIMMING
(Men’s 8-4, 2-1 PAC; Women’s 5-7, 2-1 PAC)

Westminster continues to claim its stake as one of the top swimming programs in the region. For a second straight year the Titan men’s and women’s teams won the PAC Championship. The Titan men finished 20th in the nation as four swimmers earned All-America status at the NCAA Division III Championships. Westminster also sent women swimmers to the NCAA championships for the first time since 2003.

Titans were crowned PAC champions and awarded first-team All-PAC honors in 15 events. Head coach Rob Klamut was named PAC Men’s Swimming Coach of the Year, marking the 12th time he has either earned men’s or women’s PAC Coach of the Year honors during his 22 years as head coach.

Most notably among the men’s swimmers was senior Ryan Trunk, whose national second-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle gave him All-America honors for the second year in a row in the event. Trunk also picked up All-America honors in the 50 freestyle and as anchor on the 400 medley relay team that finished eighth nationally.

Senior swimmer Ryan Trunk earned All-America status for the second consecutive year.

Sophomore Chris Lehberger, senior Pat Smith and sophomore Conor Simpson also earned All-America plaudits on the 400 medley relay team.

Titan women’s swimmers qualifying for nationals included junior Becky Giles and sophomore Megan Mier swimming in individual medley and backstroke events.

Senior point guard Greg Rosatelli guided the Titan men’s basketball team to its first-ever NCAA Division III Tournament appearance by averaging 15.6 points per game during the season and a league-high 5.56 assists.

Division III Tournament before losing in the first round to nationally-ranked Messiah, 77-65. Additionally, for the first time ever, the squad featured two first-team all-conference players in junior guard/forward Emilee Ackerman and senior guard Desiree Sterling.

Fifth-year Rosanne Scott was named PAC Coach of the Year after leading the team back from an 8-19 record in 2005-06.

Senior guard Desiree Sterling averaged 15.5 points per game in 2006-07 and became the all-time leading scorer in the 36-year history of Westminster women’s basketball with 1,451 career points. She was named PAC Player of the Year and first team All-Region by d3hoops.com.

Senior swimmer Ryan Trunk earned All-America status for the second consecutive year.
Junior outfielder Brandon Drespling was voted to the All-PAC first team, while sophomore first baseman John Izzo received a second-team nod for a second straight year.

Senior golfer Kelly Spisak earned first-team All-PAC honors by placing fourth at the 2007 league championships. Her 94.77 round average was the lowest on the team during the season.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GOLF
(Men 21-26; Women’s 6-14)

The Westminster women’s golf team placed second at the PAC Championships and the Titan men took fifth completing a spring season in which the teams posted records of 6-14 and 21-26, respectively.

On the women’s side, senior Kelly Spisak earned first-team All-PAC status with a fourth-place finish at the league championship. Spisak earned team MVP honors with her 94.77 round stroke average, while sophomore Nick Marzo was honored as the Titan men’s team MVP with his stroke average of 81.35.

Overall the men posted a combined fall and spring record of 40-40, while the women went 7-27. Gene Nicholson completed his seventh season as men’s golf coach and Debi Roud wrapped up her sixth year leading the Titan women.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Westminster field hockey team finished the season with a 7-9-3 record, including wins against the Conference of Division III Presidents (CD3P) and the University of Rochester.

MEN’S BASEBALL
(17-21, 8-10 PAC)

Fifth-year head coach Carmen Nocera led the Westminster baseball team to a late-season run that qualified the Titans for the PAC Tournament before the team was eliminated by the top two teams in the league, including eventual champion Washington & Jefferson.

The Titans finished with a 17-21 record, including winning five of their last six PAC games to finish fourth in the league with an 8-10 record.

MEN’S TENNIS
(3-9, 1-4 PAC)

Led by eighth-year head coach Scott Renninger, the Westminster men’s tennis team surprised many in the league with a second-place finish at the PAC Championships.

The Titans, which posted a regular season record of 3-9 and 1-4 in league matches, compiled 22 points and beat out four other PAC teams.

Freshman Fred Romeo was named team MVP after posting an 8-7 singles record at No. 3 flight.

Senior softball player Jennifer Pancake set school single-season records in home runs (9) and RBI (42) en route to earning PAC Player of the Year honors. Pancake also posted a 15-9 record as a pitcher with a league-low 0.88 earned-run average.

SPRING 2007 • WESTMINSTER COLLEGE MAGAZINE
As Coordinator of Advancement Events for Westminster College, Cindy works with regional alumni groups throughout the country to develop and strengthen Westminster Connections.

February – The Villages, Fla.
Jack Mansfield ’59 and his wife, Carol Paulie Mansfield ’58, hosted John and Alicia Wil- liams Blampin ’59 ’58 and Thomas Johnson ’59 at their home in The Villages, Fla., for a mini Westminster reunion.

February 27 – Pittsburgh.
The Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee met to discuss 2007 summer events. Watch for some great upcoming events in the Pittsburgh area!

March 22 – Tampa Bay, Fla.
Thirteen alumni and guests in the Tampa Bay area enjoyed a sunny afternoon seeing a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game. Alumni gathered at the home of host Keith McCauley ’68 for a picnic before heading off to the game.

March 30 – Pittsburgh.
Twenty-eight alumni and guests from Pittsburgh enjoyed a reception and performance of “The Magic Flute” by the Pittsburgh Opera at the Benedum Center. During the reception, students from Opera Westminster performed a selection for guests. Special thanks to trustee Mark Weinstein for helping make the arrangements. Also thanks to Dr. Anne H. Bentz, assistant professor of music and director of Opera Westminster; Mihai Valcu, conductor of Opera Westminster; Dr. Nancy J. DeSalvo, chair of the Department of Music and accompanist for Opera Westminster; and to our students for sharing their incredible talents!

April 28 – New Wilmington.
The Westminster College Women’s Club spring luncheon was held on campus at the Berlin Student Lounge of McKelvey Campus Center. Guests enjoyed a wonderful lunch followed by an excellent program, “The Thompson House Story,” presented by Dorothy J. Pollock ’46, advancement associate. Guests enjoyed hearing the history and viewing great photos of Thompson House.

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

Committee Members include Philip Petraglia ’83, Melissa Ruefle ’98, Seth Rice ’01, Becky Rickard ’98 and Leanne Onorato ’98.

From left to right trustee Peter Herchenroether ’76, Susan Suomi Herchenroether ’77, trustee Mark Weinstein, board of trustees chair Debbie Swatsworth Foster ’74, Valerie Conroy, Bill Foster ’74 and trustee Barbara Braden Guffey ’70.

Dorothy Pollock ’46 presents the history of Thompson House at the Westminster College Women’s Club spring luncheon.

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 daffercs@westminster.edu.
Alumni Connections, a speed networking series hosted by Alumni Council and the Student Alumni Association, provided students with an opportunity to network with alumni in majors and professions of interest. The series offered evenings focusing on business and education. Alumni hosted networking tables – every seven minutes students changed tables and met a new alumni contact.

While alumni enjoyed the opportunity to return to campus and meet students, students appreciated the professional advice and experience alumni shared. Jennifer Rossey ’07 enjoyed talking with the alumni about how they got their jobs and “what tips they had for getting our applications to the top of the pile.”

Next February the Alumni Connections series will offer speed networking in Natural Sciences, Public Relations/English and Communications. If you are interested in sharing your experience and serving as a networking contact Mary James ’84, director of alumni relations, at mjames@westminster.edu or 724-946-7363.

Diane Bell ’95, right, a third grade teacher in the Wilmington Area School District, served as a speed networking contact. “It was so refreshing to be with young people again who are so eager to start their careers!”

Alums participate in Relay for Life

Melissa Ruefle ’98, Alumni Council member, organized a team of alumni and friends to take part in the 10th Annual Relay for Life, coordinated on campus by Alpha Sigma Phi to support the American Cancer Society. Participants are, bottom row, Sara Surgenor Arblaster ’02 and Steve Schooley ’01. Top row from left, Emily Zgunc, Kate Zgunc, Molly Zgunc ’98, Becca Gellner, Marisa Guriel Schooley ’01, Melissa Ruefle ’98.

Upcoming alumni events:

**Saturday, June 23 – Pittsburgh.** Westminster Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Brown bag lunch gathering at the Village Picnic Pavilion and educational program by a zoo speaker. Enjoy the rest of the day exploring the zoo and aquarium.

**Tuesday, July 3 – All alumni, e-mail invitation only.** Dessert and beverages at Wiley Alumni House before the annual Fourth of July concert on campus.

**Friday, August 17 – Pittsburgh Pirates.** Baseball game featuring a pre-game gathering and Skyblast at PNC Park.

**September 28, 29 & 30 – 2007 Homecoming events**
Alumni Attack: Team Nail-um

Alumni Council member Seth Rice ’01 organized Team Nail-Um, the first alumni team to participate in the annual VolleyRock volleyball tournament coordinated by the Student Government Association. Pictured are Ryan Vaccaro ’01, Carrie Weitzel Vaccaro ’01, Alumni Council member Chris Hall ’01, Jennifer Hall, Seth Rice ’01 and Kristen McCaskey.

Offering Business Tips

Hosted by the Economics and Business Department, Sybil Feightner ’06, seated at left, joined accounting students for lunch. She shared her job search experience and gave tips and suggestions for students to remember during their first years in the work force. Also pictured are students and David Smith, assistant professor of economics, back left.

Time to Eat

Student Alumni Association members gathered at Wiley Alumni House for Grill Out 2007 to welcome new members, toss water balloons and celebrate a growing year. New student and alumni networking events were very successful and more are planned for the coming year.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

September 28, 29 & 30, 2007

This is your weekend to return to campus, reminisce and reconnect with Westminster friends! Make your plans now to meet friends on campus.

Alumni email addresses are available online. www.westminster.edu/alumniemail

Check out the Homecoming & Reunion Weekend Schedule. www.westminster.edu/homecoming

Do you know a prospective student who would do well at Westminster? Contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-942-8033 or e-mail admis@westminster.edu

Visit www.westminster.edu/weekly for weekly Westminster updates.
The short headlines belie the complexity of the situation. Still, make no mistake that everyone in higher education—Westminster included—is concerned about structuring college finances and operations in ways that help to ensure access and affordability for families with a range of incomes while maintaining educational quality and preserving institution’s fiscal health.

“One of the keys at all institutions is building annual and endowed scholarship funds that supplement family contributions and federal and state grants and loans,” said President R. Thomas Williamson. “We have always done well at raising scholarship funds at Westminster. However, we are going to focus on this area very strongly in the near future.”

The first step takes place July 1 when the Westminster Fund, the College’s annual giving program, shifts its focus to helping deserving students with annual scholarship gifts.

“The Westminster Fund has traditionally focused on raising unrestricted gifts that could be applied by the College at its discretion to the areas of greatest need,” according to Vice President of Institutional Advancement Gloria Cagigas. “In addition to general financial aid, that might include an unexpected increase in utility bills due to a harsh winter or a major emergency repair. Everyone knows that you have to pay the electric bill and fix the sewer lines, but it’s not very glamorous. Donors find it much more personally satisfying to help...
students directly, and that is what the Westminster Fund will do. All gifts to the Westminster Fund will support student scholarships.”

It is also a change that will resonate with the parents of current and prospective college students, according to Director of Financial Aid Cheryl Gerber.

“The financial aid process is complicated,” she said. “Students begin by completing a federal FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form which considers a number of factors including family income, other financial resources, family size, number of college-aged children, and the age of the parents in determining a family’s expected contribution and a student’s financial need. We then package together all forms of financial aid for which a student qualifies—including federal and state grants, merit scholarships, and need-based grants from Westminster toward meeting the student’s calculated financial need.”

Seventy-eight percent of Westminster’s students qualify for need-based financial aid, and more than 98 percent receive some form of need-based and/or merit-based scholarship support. Westminster, like many colleges, does not have the resources to fully fund the gap between the family contribution and the total financial need.

“There are a number of reasons that student debt has risen steadily in recent years,” Gerber said. “Financial aid from all sources has not kept pace with rising college costs.”

Although Westminster’s current annual cost-of-attendance ($31,290 for tuition, room and board in the 2006-07 academic year) is a challenge for many families, it still compares favorably to other similar private colleges in Pennsylvania ($37,272 annually).

“It’s important to understand from the start that delivering a high-quality, liberal arts, church-related residential education is a high-cost model,” said Williamson. “Everything that we do is structured around building the academic, intellectual, and personal character of bright young adults who attend school full-time while living on campus for a period of four years.”

That is an employee-intensive endeavor, according to Ken Romig, vice president of finance. “More than 60 percent of our budget goes for faculty and staff salaries and benefits, and that’s a conscious choice related to quality. In the academic program, for example, we choose to have small classes and a teaching load that allows faculty to give all students a great deal of personal attention. This includes helping individual students having difficulty, incorporating research and service projects throughout the curriculum, and supervising senior capstone projects that are often presented at regional and national conferences.”

A similar situation exists with extracurricular programs. The Department of Music, for example, offers 10 major bands, orchestras, and choral groups as well as many smaller ensembles involving 350 to 400 students in addition to its academic program.

Similarly, the Department of Athletics sponsors 20 intercollegiate men’s and women’s sports serving more than 400 students and a very popular intramurals program. And there are more than 80 registered student organizations—including student government, fraternities and sororities, honor societies, and interest groups—on campus.

The end result of all of this effort is an extraordinarily enriching academic and personal experience for Westminster’s students—and retention and graduation rates that are substantially higher than public colleges and universities.

“The personalization that is a hallmark of Westminster and similar colleges would not be possible without our current level of staffing,” Romig said. “This rules out the savings derived from ‘economies of scale’ achieved through employee reductions in other industries.”

Romig added that it is important to compare “apples to apples” when considering higher education costs.

“The expectations and needs of a working adult taking evening courses on a part-time basis are very different from those of a traditional-aged, full-time residential college student,” he said. “That difference is reflected in the depth and breadth of academic and student life programs and services offered, and their subsequent costs.”

In fact, tuition and room and board fees cover only about 74 percent of the cost of attending Westminster.

“Please don’t ever think that your contribution doesn’t make a difference because it certainly does!”

– R. Thomas Williamson
The remaining expenses are supported by the College’s income from endowment, annual gifts from alumni and friends, federal/state and foundation and corporate grants, and other sources.

A long-term solution to the challenge of financing higher education is three-fold: to increase state and federal support for higher education (including private institutions), individual support, and to build stronger institutional endowments.

“Post-secondary education is becoming ever more critical to individual success and to the competitiveness of our nation’s economy,” said Williamson, “and that need should be better addressed in our general public funding for education. However, private support is equally important to institutions—both in terms of dollars raised, and as an expression of constituent support that helps attract gifts from foundations, corporations, and other major donors. Please don’t ever think that your contribution doesn’t make a difference because it certainly does!”

Endowments are increasingly important to the financial health of higher education. Created largely from bequests and other planned gifts, they provide a permanent and reliable source of income for institutions. Generally only five percent of an endowment’s market value may be withdrawn for use annually based on a three-year average, according to widely used standards for endowment management.

Westminster’s endowment market value ($88.4 million at the close of fiscal year 2006 on June 30, 2006) and its endowment per student ($61,000 for the same period) rank near the medians of its peer institutions ($100.1 million and $61,000 respectively). The goal of the College is to increase the endowment to $200 million by 2017.

“Building a $200 million endowment will be accomplished through the For Our Future endowment initiative—which will seek current and future or planned gifts (such as bequests) from alumni and friends—coupled with market appreciation,” said Williamson. “This will enable us to gradually increase the proportion of endowment-funded scholarships in financial aid packages to our goal of 50 percent of tuition costs (or better) for every entering student. That will make education more affordable for families by reducing student loans, and institutional operating funds that have been applied to financial aid will instead be available for program improvements.”

The Westminster Fund and the For Our Future initiative share a common focus on “giving back” through student scholarships.

“We hear heartwarming stories every day from alumni and parents about how much Westminster meant to them or to their children,” Cagigas said. “And we want to encourage them to make the same opportunities available to others by supporting scholarships through annual giving, and by creating endowed scholarship funds that will provide a personal or family legacy by helping generations to come.”

Visit www.westminster.edu for more information about the Westminster Fund and the For Our Future endowment initiative, or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement, Westminster College, Old Main, 319 S. Market St., New Wilmington, PA 16172 at 724-946-7370.

(Tom Taylor is director of research and foundation relations at Westminster)
More than 320 students earned diplomas during Westminster’s 153rd annual commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 19, on the Senior Terrace of Old Main.

Joselyn Parker recites “Dreamer,” a poem about her experiences at Westminster, which prompted a standing ovation.

Teal Kawana certainly didn’t walk away from Commencement empty-handed. In addition to the degree she earned, she was also the recipient of a brand-new playful puppy.

A view of Commencement from the Bell Tower Room in Old Main.
Under sunny skies, this year’s exercises granted 288 bachelor’s degrees and 36 master’s degrees, as well as one honorary doctor of public service degree to Dr. Dianne D. Aronian ’62.

Aronian, a 1962 Westminster graduate and a member of the Westminster Board of Trustees from 1990-98, delivered the Commencement address, urging graduates to “find your bliss.”

“I can tell you that you will know because it’s like falling in love. You will think about it night and day. You’ll be obsessed by it. You might not have found it yet, but be patient and be alert for it. When you recognize it … go it with all your will,” she said. “Remember, it’s not IQ, it’s I will.”

Aronian enjoyed a distinguished 30-year career as an ophthalmologist specializing in children’s eye problems in New York City. In 1996 she created a program to bring eye care to southern Belize in Central America. Retired from private practice, she serves as a clinical associate professor of ophthalmology at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and an associate attending ophthalmologist at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

“The keys to whatever success I have had seem to stem from my early association with Westminster College,” she said. “Imagine, this little school in western Pennsylvania has led to my success in the big city. If I had not been nurtured by my early teachers, if Joan Rankin had not recommended me for my first job, if Ed Dunlap had not recognized me as a fellow alumnus, none of this would have happened.”

The College also honored retiring faculty B. Eugene Nicholson, physical education, and Dr. William L. Johnson, physics. Both were awarded emeritus status. Johnson, additionally, earned the prestigious Distinguished Faculty Award. (See story on page 18.)

Stephanie L. Martin, an elementary education major from Claysville, Pa., delivered the senior address.

The Baccalaureate service, held in Orr Auditorium, featured a sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. William N. Jackson ’57, interim pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, Pa., and a member of the Westminster Board of Trustees.

In his sermon, “How Do We Go From Here?” Jackson used a simple playground swing as a metaphor for life. He urged graduating seniors to consider the “parabolic harmonious oscillation”—the leaning back and kicking forward—as a mission statement for their futures.

“Consider your spiritual heritage as you lean back….remember those who taught and inspired you how to think,” he said. “And if you practice parabolic harmonious oscillation, you will find out how to go from here. You will get into the swing of things.”

The service also included music by Kathryn Miller and readings from the Rev. James R. Mohr, College chaplain, and Debora S. Foster ’74, chair of the board of trustees. Graduating senior Joselyn Parker recited “Dreamer,” a poem on her life’s experiences at Westminster which prompted a standing ovation.
As Bill Johnson closes the chapter of his life at Westminster, don’t expect him to ride off quietly into the sunset. Look for him to soar.

Johnson, retiring physics professor who was named at Commencement the 2007 Distinguished Faculty Award winner, will now be able to devote more time to his other passion: flying.

But before he and his wife, Pat, take off in his four-seated Piper to do the obligatory retirement travel, he took a few moments to reflect on his accomplishments, his students, and how he managed to land at Westminster in the first place.

Originally from the Magnolia State, Johnson earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and his master’s and Ph.D. from the United States Naval Postgraduate School. It was while he was conducting postdoctoral research at the Big Ten University of Illinois that he decided a smaller, liberal arts school just might be a better fit for him.

“I found that the faculty (at a large research university) weren’t really focused on the undergraduates, the students,” Johnson said. In fact, he recounted the defining moment he knew a smaller, student-centered school would be more appropriate for him.

Approached by an undergraduate about a project, he took a moment from his work to explain, help and guide the student. He wanted to help draw that student into the world of physics. Yet a passing senior colleague questioned Johnson’s actions and eventually instructed him to get back to his research—the important work.

“That was the spark that led me to look at smaller undergraduate schools,” he said.

It was a chance meeting at a physics conference with Floyd Zehr, professor of physics emeritus, that ultimately brought Johnson to Westminster.

Retiring faculty member William Johnson makes his way to the podium to accept the 2007 Distinguished Faculty Award.
Zehr was looking for another member of the physics team at Westminster, but the initial thought of a small town between Pittsburgh’s Steel City and the struggling metropolis of Cleveland wasn’t very appealing.

A visit to the campus, though, changed his mind.

“It was the kind of college I was looking for,” Johnson said, adding that he knew immediately that Westminster would be a good fit. At Westminster, he could address his calling to helping students while still conducting research in his field.

His research has taken him to some unique places, perhaps most notably to space. Two of his projects, undertaken during a summer faculty fellowship and a sabbatical leave, were experiments for NASA space shuttle flights.

But the research, while essential in his field, was always secondary. To Johnson, his students were first and foremost. Through his association and resources with NASA, he was able to develop experiments on Westminster’s campus using project data and equipment.

“Bill has modeled for students how to be an effective scientist, not only in the way he has had them approach the subject matter in his courses, but by his own involvement in research,” said colleague Dr. G. Samuel Lightner, fellow professor of physics.

Working in a field as narrow as physics, Johnson admits he doesn’t have the broad connect with dozens of students as professors of other disciplines might. But the ones he has mentored have benefited from Johnson’s attention and dedication.

In fact, a recommendation letter for the Distinguished Faculty Award, signed by all current physics and 3-2 engineering majors, stated: “A dry professor can shrivel the interest of even the most eager physics major. Dr. Johnson, however, conveys his enthusiasm, and it is infectious. It is difficult for anyone interested in physics to avoid being drawn into Dr. Johnson’s lectures.”

Many other former students shared stories of “Dr. J” spending countless hours outside of class helping them and helping them throughout graduate school and professional careers.

While Johnson is first to point out that not all of his students are bound for great accomplishments in the field of physics—“many struggled”—he uses the same approach with all of his students.

“They know I care. I let them know that they’ve chosen a very challenging discipline and I will help train their minds to accommodate the challenges,” he said. “The mind must be disciplined.”

Craig Caylor, assistant professor of physics, applauds Johnson’s approach to his students.

“I have overheard a number of meetings with students over the past several years,” said Caylor, whose office lies adjacent to Johnson’s. “How many times I’ve heard Bill give a student the truthful advice he or she needed to be successful in a class. I never find out whether a student takes the advice, but I often find myself thinking, ‘He’s telling you what you need to know! I’m pretty sure he’s not aware of it, but over the years, Bill has provided me with a pretty good seminar on advising students.’”

Johnson, of course, is far more humble and low-key and about his pedagogical methods.

“I take them where they are academically and convince them there is a light at the end of the tunnel,” he said.

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(Hildebrand is editor of Westminster Magazine)
Following the devastation of Sept. 11, the persistent calls came from different sources. As years passed, they became harder to ignore.

The calls came in recurring dreams of serving in the military; dreams of speaking Arabic in the Middle East; news reports with commanders stating, “It sure would make things a lot easier if we could just talk to the Iraqis;” and subtle messages from sermons.

Jon “Gib” McGill ’68 faced a quandary: When you’re blessed with a gift, is there a moral obligation to share your special skills—even if it means leaving your family and the tranquil setting of New Wilmington to serve in Iraq?

Gib, an artist by trade, had a gift for the Arabic language. His father and grandfather were missionaries in Egypt (see sidebar), where Gib went to school until he was 13 and learned the Arabic language.

The decision was difficult.

“It seemed that I ought to be able to help, even though I wasn’t sure that my Arabic was of a high enough standard, or whether I was still young enough to be considered for such a job,” Gib said. “On the one hand I was very happy with my no-stress artist’s lifestyle and happy home and family. Only once in a while was I nagged by this kind of a sense of responsibility that I should use this language gift I’d been given for no apparent reason. But in truth, I was happy whenever the seeming impracticality of the idea allowed me to lean back in my La-Z-Boy and put it out of my mind.”

In the McGill tradition, service won out over self. After passing a series of proficiency tests, Gib was shipped to Iraq in March 2006 as a translator.

“I feel I do a type of missionary work,” he said. “Mine is different than that of my father’s and grandfather’s work, where they were connected to the Presbyterian Church. Mine is a calling to help and reach out to communicate to the Iraqi people.

“The interpreters work with the Military Transition Team (MITT) and the combat divisions of the Iraqi Army,” Gib continued. “The MITT team consists of U.S. Marines. Their job is to teach and advise the Iraqi officers.”

Some recent duties included translating instructions from U.S. Marines to members of
the Iraqi army who were learning to disarm roadside bombs. That assignment underlines the profound respect he has for those who serve in the military.

“Under my contract, I can quit tomorrow if I choose to, but these guys and girls have chosen military service,” he said. “And serve they do, going out enthusiastically day after day at all kinds of ungodly hours to patrol around the countryside in convoys, any one of which could be their last.”

Gib has shared his other special gift – painting – with the soldiers. During his stay in Iraq, he created portraits from live sittings of Col. Steven Zotti and Lt. Matthew Hilton, who sent it to his mother in Fairfax, Va.

“Painting portraits is hard here because I have to concentrate and both the subjects and I have limited free time,” Gib said. “I enjoy it, but it’s not relaxing and certainly not a substitute for sleep. Because of the culture here, I must work evenings and mornings. The Iraqis all quit working at 1 p.m. and don’t come back to work until 6 or 7 p.m. The Marines have to work both times and in between.

“Painting is a passion, but still a job,” he added. “I do not get emotionally attached to my artwork. I would rather have others enjoy and appreciate it in their homes. I am also passionate about the Middle East. If I had more time, I’d paint more here, but it’s time for my other passion — to work, translate, and translate well and hopefully shorten the communications gap.”

Being separated from his family and the lack of freedom are the biggest challenges he faces.

“Life is just not the same when you don’t have the freedom to do what you want, when you want — when your time is not your own,” Gib said.

“What’s hard from my perspective is, for example, no walks on the Volant trail with Merrianne (wife), Emilie (daughter), and Moe, the dog,” he said. “Not even an afternoon run up to Wal-Mart or a jaunt over to Shenango-on-the-Green to visit my dad. I’d like to wet a line in the Neshannock Creek out behind our house, or take a ride through the rolling countryside on my motor bike, stopping to talk with my Amish friends along the way.”

In spite of the sacrifices, Gib recently signed up for another year of service.

“It may or may not be a calling per se,” Gib said, “But the convergence of quite a few coincidences leading up to the job makes me think it was meant to be.”

~ Mark A. Meighen
This is really a “call from God.” I don’t know what else to call it. Since Sept. 11 Gib has always felt the urge to help. When the government asked for Arabic translators, Gib immediately applied everywhere. He knew he had the ability to translate. Why did he keep up with his Arabic language if he could not help, especially now when it was needed? But, nobody would hire Gib, presumably because of his age—he was in his mid 50s.

Years passed and Gib continued keeping sharp on his Arabic language – listening daily to BBC Arabic while playing solitaire on the computer. During this period, Gib had recurring dreams of being in the military, speaking Arabic to captains, generals and colonels. Gib had these dreams for approximately two years.

I once told Gib to quit listening to Arabic on the computer. It got quite annoying. I told him he will probably never get a job speaking Arabic, so why keep it up? He was obsessed.

In January, Gib received a phone call from L3-Titan Corporation in response to his online application. At first he thought it was a telemarketer and did not pay attention to the call. I listened to the message and told him it was something he filled out online. I asked Gib, “What the heck did you do?” It had been so long since he filled out an application for a translator, he did not remember. I told him to call and find out what they wanted.

The lady from L3-Titan wanted to test Gib’s Arabic: one by phone, two in person. I told him to take the test. “See how good you are. You either pass or you fail. At least you’ll have an understanding of how good your Arabic is.”

Gib took the first test by phone and passed. The next step was to go to Reston, Va., for further testing. I told him to go. “Take the test—we’ll go from there.”

It was a little unnerving to think he might actually be good enough to go to Iraq. I did not want him to go, but I wanted him to pass his language tests to prove he was good enough to be a translator.

A week before Gib was due to leave for Virginia, we attended our church family’s retreat. The message was “What is God Calling You to Do?” Gib and I looked at each other. Two years of recurring dreams? What if this was a call from God? It was now beginning to make sense.

The last step came when Gib had to leave for Georgia for some further language and physical testing.

“Well, hunnerly,” he said. “Either I’ll see you in two weeks or I’ll see you in six months.”

My heart wanted him to pass for his own peace of mind, but in the same breath, I did not want him going to Iraq. What if this was the last time I saw him?

Gib left for Georgia. The following week I went to Denison University for a conference. We kept in touch by cell phone. The news I did not want to hear came as I was heading for the dinner at the conference.

“Well, hunnerly, I passed,” he said over the phone. “I got my duffle bag and I’m heading to the airplane now for Kuwait.”

My heart dropped. I found an alcove to hide in while I tried to hold back the tears to wish my husband farewell, to stay safe, and to know I love him.

March 24 marked Gib’s one-year anniversary in Iraq. He has even signed up for another year. We truly believe that he is making a difference.

~ M.H.M.
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49 Lydia Zahariou Love has authored Down of the Thistle – 20th Century Presbyterian clergy, has authored Dwight Views Bed & Breakfast in Boone, Martha White of the obituary. phone must be supported by a copy of the obituary. Future. Death notices taken over the phone must be supported by a copy of the obituary.

50 Roy Barthel and his wife, Martha Kilgore Barthel '49, have retired as innkeepers at Window Views Bed & Breakfast in Boone, N.C.

Dwight White, retired Presbyterian clergy, has authored Down of the Thistle – 20th Century

Rygate VT, the result of 15 years of research and written at the request of the town of Rygate, Vt.

55th Reunion, Class of 1952 Saturday, September 29, 2007 Afternoon Reception hosted by John Peterson ’52

50th Reunion, Class of 1957 Saturday, September 29, 2007 Reunion Dinner, Radisson Inn, Sharon

60 Charles Johnson has remained active at the University of Richmond since his retirement in 2005. An endowed lectureship was established in his name; he was appointed visiting senior scholar at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies; he has been involved with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the Keck Grant program, which is developing an arts and leadership program with several other institutions. He and his wife, Pat, reside in Richmond, Va.

62 Ron Galbreath, women’s basketball coach at Geneva College and former men’s basketball coach at Westminster, was honored for his 600th career victory. He and his wife, Pat, make their home in Beaver Falls.

66 Eleanor Works Siegrist, a retired high school chemistry teacher, has received the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching. She was a driving force behind Science in Motion, an outreach program developed by Donald Mitchell ’60 at Juniata College.

67 John Fontanella, physics professor at the U.S. Naval Academy and former Titan basketball star, has combined his two passions in The Physics of Basketball, which examines forces behind the game and explains principles that can make players better shooters.

69 Lou Ann Campbell Webber is membership coordinator, Silver Sneaker specialist at the Hollidaysburg Area YMCA.

Sue Stoeker Fairman of Mercer is the office manager for the New Wilmington Missionary Conference.

70 Thomas Clemens, president of American Commercial Inc., earned the 2007 Most Valuable Professional award from the Gulf Coast Trenchless Association and Underground Construction magazine. Tom and his wife, Kathy Gray Clemens, reside in Louisville, Ky.


71 Donald McKim, academic and reference editor at Westminster John Knox Press, has had a number of his books translated into other languages, including Russian, Japanese, Korean and French. He and his wife, LindaJo, reside in Germantown, Tenn.

72 Ann Strome Gold and her husband, Gary, live in Manitowoc, Wis., where Ann is a musician.

73 Capt. Mitchell Dukovich is commanding officer of the Naval Health Research Center, San Diego. He lives in San Diego with his wife, Dr. Marie Dell’Aquila, and their two daughters.

74 Sam Carlson is serving as president of Pittsburgh-NAIFA, the association for insurance professionals in the Pittsburgh area.

Mary Ann Tracey Isaac, a caseworker supervisor with the Lawrence County Assistance Office, is Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) coordinator for the county. In addition, she is president of the board of directors for Adult Literacy Lawrence County. She lives in Edinburg with her husband, Martin.

75 Ronald Roppa is director of product management and operations with Rolled Alloys, a specialty metals distribution company. Ron and his wife, Patricia, make their home in Maumee, Ohio.

Paul Sapotichne, basketball coach at Greensburg Salem High School, celebrated his 300th victory. During his 24 seasons, the Golden Lions have won three section titles and have qualified for the WPIAL playoffs 14 times.

Geoffrey Wright is vice president and general manager for Destination Resorts Vail, a property management and condominium rental agency. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Avon, Colo.

76 Stephen Nardozzi, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Prehospital EMS at Westchester Community College, received the State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In addition, he was recognized by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development with their Excellence Award that emphasizes the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.
Alumni Spotlight:
Jim Adams ’79

Stars in His Eyes
Alumnus is new deputy director for planetary sciences at NASA

Jim Adams ’79 still remembers how excited he was when he and his fellow students put together their first microcomputer. “The program was entered by switches. I added two to three in binary—and it worked! I was totally amazed and enthralled you could do that sort of operation.”

When Adams graduated Westminster in 1979 with a degree in physics, he really wanted to apply microchips to cash registers. National Cash Register, just down the road in New Castle, was hiring engineers.

“I wasn’t one, so I didn’t get hired, and that’s how I ended up in aerospace,” he recalls.

Adams joined GE’s aerospace division instead, where he worked on dozens of space missions including science missions and telecommunications satellites, as well as the initial design of the International Space Station. From there he got on a career path at NASA and earned a master’s in electrical engineering from Villanova University.

Prior to his recent promotion, Adams served as deputy project manager for the Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) mission to image the sun in 3-D.

Since accepting his new position, his job description has shifted from being hands-on to being involved in setting direction and policy for the agency.

“It’s a challenge and a privilege to help set the agenda for the future, and to wonder, ‘What will my son be working on?’”

In answer to his own question, Adams said, “Of course we should bother with space. Seventy-five percent of Americans approve what NASA does, but only six percent know what NASA does. Space [exploration] is about expanding human knowledge, rising to great challenges, and—I know I sound like Miss America—world peace.”

Decades ago, space exploration was about competition and being the first: to launch a manned space flight, to have man orbit the earth, to set foot on the moon. Over the years, the spirit of competition has changed to one of cooperation. The international space station, one of the most challenging space engineering feats ever attempted, is an example of how cooperation in space exploration can lead to world peace.

The planetary science division’s focus over the next decade will be on sample return. One project awaiting approval is Boomerang, a mission that would robotically pick up moon rocks from 43 collection spots that are untainted by other events.

“The key to unraveling the mystery of the formation of the planets is bringing stuff back, and that’s what we’re going to do,” Adams said. “Ultimately, we will go to Mars and bring soil back. That’s important because we have indications some of the soil is carcinogenic. You wouldn’t want to send human beings there and put them at risk.”

Not bad for a kid who wanted to design cash registers.

“I attribute a lot of what I’ve accomplished to my liberal arts education,” he said. “You can think out of the box. You can encourage people to be more than they are. You can take a set of things and put them together and make something that never was there. You can change the world. That’s the value of a liberal arts education.”

— Sandra E. Chandler
81  The Rev. Bruce Engelman is senior pastor at Baptist Temple in Ft. Worth, Texas. He resides in Ft. Worth with his wife, Connie, and their three children.

Robin Wagner is president of Concepts Management Group in Pittsburgh.


82  Steve Ferringer was promoted to executive vice president of Fidelity National Information Services, a Fortune 250 firm specializing in real estate and mortgage industry services. He and his wife, Polly, and four children reside in Pittsburgh.

84  Anthony Brown is director, human resources and administration with the law firm of Thompson Hine, LLP. Tony lives in Solon, Ohio, with his wife, Cassandra, and their three daughters.

86  Bonnie Brant is a principal with Mercer Oliver Wyman, an actuarial consulting firm in San Francisco. She and her husband, Mark Maxie, reside in the South Beach area of San Francisco.

Jeanine Hatch Anthony received a bachelor’s degree from Clarion University and is a seventh-grade English teacher in the DuBois Area School District. She lives in Reynoldsville with her husband, John, and their two children.

Richard McWilliams is vice president and chief marketing officer with Trex Company, a building products firm. Rich lives in Winchester, Va., with his wife, Lori, and their two children.

Robert Murphy is a PGA golf professional at Scotch Valley Country Club. Rob and his wife, Amanda, and their six children reside in Newry.

88  Scott Hazen is vice president of Head Co., a steel fabricator. He and his wife, Tami Racko Hazen, and their three children make their home in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Peta Obley Brown retired from the Seneca Valley Department of Education and is teaching at The Ellis School. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Michael, and their son.


92  Dr. Brian Cross is director of orthopedic trauma surgery at Broward General Medical Center and an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at NOVA Southeastern University. He and his wife, Shelly, and daughter make their home in Weston, Fl.

Roy Fuller is a stylist with Piere & Carlo Salon and Spa at Trilogy. The Elkins Park resident received a mention in Allure magazine’s Best of Beauty issue.

93  Frank D’Amico was promoted to vice president of technical support and information services with American Environmental Services, Inc. He and his wife, Jennifer Call D’Amico, and two children live in Moon Township.

Heidi Klym Speidel has received certification as a rehabilitation counselor and is a vocational evaluator/psychological service associate with Hiram G. Andrews.

Natalie Stumpf McHenry is program director of the acute partial hospitalization program at the Children’s Home of Reading. She and her son make their home in Wyomissing.

Christen Uber is director of human resources with Place Properties, a real estate and construction firm. Chris and her son are at home in Smyrna, Ga.

Jennifer Van Kirk is training manager at King’s Medical Group, a medical diagnostic imaging facility in Hudson, Ohio.

94  Matt Raich, a former Titan middle linebacker, is defensive quality control coach with the Arizona Cardinals Football Club.

95  Melissa Napoleon Mitchellree earned a master’s degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of New Hampshire. Melissa lives in Raymond, N.H., with her husband, Thomas Mitchellree, and their daughter. (See also New Additions)

The Rev. Ron Turner was installed as pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Marion, Ohio.

96  Jefferson Ellis received a master of arts degree in higher education from Geneva College. He and his wife, Lisa, and two children reside in Washington, where Jefferson is youth pastor at Church of the Covenant.

Janet Gorman Sakson is a technologist with McSource Technology, a freight payment firm. She lives in Aliquippa with her husband, John, and their daughter.

Brenna Hartzell Tatusko received a master of arts degree in counseling psychology from Ryder University. She is a therapeutic support counselor and behavior specialist with Home Nursing Agency. In addition, she is serving on the board of directors for Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc. She and her husband, Andrew Tatusko, make their home in Duncansville.

97  Joel Sekuta of Seattle, Wash., has been promoted to first vice president of human resources at Washington Mutual Bank.

Dr. Julie Sharp, a small animal veterinarian in Creedmoor, N.C., is the compliance liaison for the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance at Duke University Medical Center.

98  Emily Green received her master’s from Kent State University and is an instructor of English as a second language at Mount Union College and the University of Akron.
Amy Kime Arner, who owns a genealogical research business, was elected to the board of directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She and her husband, Keith Arner ’96, reside in Cranberry Township.

Dawn Wadsworth Booher received a master’s in history from Kent State University and is a teacher in the Ravenna School District. She lives in Atwater, Ohio, with her husband, Shannan, and two children. (See also New Additions)

99 Edwin Large, a singer/actor, is on tour in the Mediterranean, Scandinavia and the Baltic with Regent Seven Seas Cruise Lines. He is the father of a son.

Jefit Witkowski was promoted to support operations distribution manager at Ariba Inc., in Pittsburgh.

00 Jamie Burgess Wilson has been promoted to project manager at Strategic Learning, where she will oversee their educational development division. She and her husband, Kristopher, make their home in Pittsburgh.

Andrea Gyorke and her husband, Nicholas Clark, live in Nottingham, England, where Andrea is a research contracts officer at the University of Nottingham.

Kristi Lynn Huff Leiper received her master’s from Slippery Rock University and is a teacher in the New Brighton Area School District. Her husband, Michael Leiper, received his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh’s Katz School of Business and is a programmer analyst with Highmark Inc. The couple and their two sons reside in Beaver Falls.

Jason Jaskey is a system administrator with the law firm of Thorp, Reed & Armstrong. His wife, Amanda Nemec Jaskey, is a Web designer and developer with Education Management. The couple is at home in Pittsburgh.

Emily Thomas received an associate’s degree in nursing from Cuyahoga Community College and is a registered nurse at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland.

01 Dana Bilk lives in Greensburg, where she is a teacher in the Hempfield Area School District.

Jacy Haubach of Portsmouth, N.H., is a multi-age teacher in the Hampton Falls School District.

Dr. John-Paul Maszczak received his doctor of optometry degree from Ohio State University and is an optometrist at the university’s College of Optometry.

Krista Nolfi Fulton and her husband, Ryan, live in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where Courtney is a service coordinator with the South Carolina Autism Society.

05 Katie Barger Smolko is a teacher at St. Paul’s Preschool. She and her husband, Isaac, are residents of Petersburgh, Ohio.

Amber Bickhart of Reisterstown, Md., is a Spanish teacher at Milford Mill Academy in Baltimore.

Traci Campbell of Mercer is a branch sales and service representative with National City Bank in Greenville.

Bryan Gesinski is a field service representative with General Electric Commercial Distribution Finance.

Kristen Humphries of Winchester, Va., is an eighth-grade English teacher and volleyball coach in the Frederick County Public Schools.

Elizabeth King is an outbound sales representative with the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball club.

Shelly Long, band director in the Serra Catholic school system, was honored as a Top Director: 2006 All USA High School Musicians and was named to Who’s Who among American Teachers.

Thomas Oyer lives in Denver, where he is a research assistant at OMNI Institute, a social research company.

Kevin Rush is a choral music teacher and director of choral activities at Patuxent High School in Prince Frederick, Md.

06 Tiffany Walker resides in Manassas, Va., where she is a fourth-grade teacher at Jennie Dean Elementary School.

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Marriages

66 Kurt Remmers and Elieem, in 2007. The couple lives in Madison, N.J., where Kurt is president of Phokus, Inc.


93 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 Pharmacare.

96 Alyson Cwynar and Darynn Zawitz, Sept. 9, 2006, at Saint Columbkille Church in Imperial. Alumni participating included bridesmaid Jody Lamb Kellner and Timothy Kellner ’95. Other alumni attending included Michele Abbott Lockley, Beth Grebenz, Kerry Fero Watson, Natalee Schmolly and Jill Vukich Rosengren. The couple lives in Gibsonia.


Margo Loomis and Stephen Machuga, July 29, 2006, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh. Alumni participating included groomsmen Gerald Hull and bridesmaid Amber Rosetti Hobbins. Several other alumni were in attendance. Margo received a master’s of education and reading specialist certification from the University of Pittsburgh. She received an ESL program specialist certification and gained tenure with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Pittsburgh. The couple resides in Alexandria, Va.

99 Erin Heasley and Russell Leonardi, May 27, 2006, at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Chapel. Jill Heddon Terpstra was matron of honor. Alumni in attendance included Molly Burnett Mistretta ’93 and Amy Black Meadows. The couple lives in Willoughby, Ohio.

00 Laura Stuart and Adam Smith, Sept. 9, 2006, at Wallace Memorial Chapel. The Rev. Marsha Parrish ’00 officiated and best man was Richard Hosie ’81. Laura received an art certification from Carlow College. The couple resides in Volant.

02 Philip G. Neel and Vicki, Nov. 9, 2006. Philip is a customer accounts manager at Aaron’s Sales and Lease. The couple lives in Austintown, Ohio.

Anne Poland and Dan DiDesiderio, June 10, 2006, in Hermitage. Alumni participating were best man David DiDesiderio ’03.

groomsman Steve Postle, and bridesmaid Suzette Mongell.

Dan is a music teacher and band director in the Greenville Area School District. The couple lives in Hermitage.

03 Jodie Miron and Brian Tanner, Sept. 9, 2006, at Mary Mother of Hope Parish, New Castle. Alumni participating were bridesmaids Jenine DeSalvo ’04 and Amy Tanner ’02, usher Dave Commesso ’90, and organist and soloist Kris Harper ’81. Jodie is a manager at The Callos Companies. The couple resides in Bessemer.

Julie Nutter and Trevor Frazier ’04. Julie is employed by CCCS of Maryland and Delaware in Catonsville, Md., and Trevor is a teacher at Paul Lawrence Dunbar Middle School in Baltimore. The couple lives in Owings Mills, Md.

04 Pamela Englert and Michael Amos, June 25, 2006, at Northmont United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Alumni participating were maid of honor Sharon Englert ’08 and bridesmaids Vicki Vrobles ’03, Becky Gonda and Juli Conoran ’03. Pam is a science teacher at Fort Cherry High School. The couple lives in Canonsburg.

Erica Nye and Joel Monomer, July 8, 2006, at Greensburg Alliance Church in Greensburg. Lauren Gacesa was a bridesmaid. Erica is a long-term substitute teacher for Penn-Trafford School District. The couple lives in Level Green.

Jennie Ritchie and Mark De Salvo, Aug. 12, 2006, at the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts in New Castle. Melissa Miller ’95 was a bridesmaid. Jennie is a special education teacher for Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV and is pursuing a master’s in special education. The couple lives in New Castle.

Elisa Suber and Jonathan Smith ’02, Oct. 28, 2006, at St. Bartholomew Church in Sharpsville. Daniela DiRupo Covert was maid of honor and Stacy Tempalski Marquis ’02 was a bridesmaid. Gregory Marquis ’02 was best man, with groomsmen Andrew Chiapusio ’02 and Kenneth Schulz ’02. Elisa is a loan processor with First National Bank and a gymnastics coach with Starfire Gymnastics. Jonathan received his master’s in education from Westminster and is the Webmaster at the College. The couple lives in Hermitage.

05 Kristen Blazojewski and Christopher Cassano ’03, June 10, 2006, at Wallace Memorial Chapel. Christina Simon ’04 was maid of honor and Megan Romano Yuvan was bridesmaid. Other alumni and staff in attendance were Amy Watson ’06, Gary Swanson ’88, and Clarence Harms, professor of biology emeritus. Kristin teaches first grade at Pulaski Elementary School and is pursuing a graduate degree in curriculum and instruction. Chris is a biology and general science teacher at Wilmington High School and is pursuing a master’s in education. The couple resides in New Wilmington.

06 Tracy Blount and Aaron Dugan ’05. The couple lives in McKeen.
Diana Carson and Mark Rhoads ’05, Aug. 12, 2006, at Ridgway Church of Christ. Alumni who participated were Laurajane LaVerde ’05, Erin Brownstein Butti, Michael Butti ’05, and Michael Clever. Several other alumni and students attended. Mark is the Forest County Probation Officer, and Diana is a teacher in Tionesta, where they reside.

Jamie Jennings and Clifton Martin. Jamie is LDW manager for CCO in Pittsburgh. The couple resides in Dillsburg.

New Additions

83 Patricia Flowers Jacobina and her husband, Charles: a son, Logan Charles, on Nov. 30, 2005. Patti is a vice president with Merrill Lynch and is a guest soloist with groups in the northern Virginia area. The family resides in Great Falls, Va.

84 Valerie Wilden and her husband, Gregory: a son, Dayne Joseph, on Oct. 11, 2006. He joins Alyssa Vance, 15, and Scott Day, 10, at home in Wexford. Valerie is assistant vice president for St. Barnabas Health System in Gibsonia and was recently elected a trustee of Westminster College.

88 Beth Burke Parker and her husband, Douglas: a daughter, Faith Elizabeth, on Jan. 16, 2007. She joins Stephanie, 7, Emma, 5, and Grace, 2, at home in Poolesville, Md. Beth is a teacher in the Montgomery County Public Schools.


91 Kelly Manion Hillebrand and her husband, Matthew Hillebrand ’94: a son, Ryan Matthew, on Dec. 19, 2006. He joins Kaitlyn, 2, at home in North Strabane.


Lee Marshall and his wife, Katherine: a son, Jacob, on May 15, 2006. Lee is president of Marstrand Industries. The family resides in Gibsonia.

93 Karrie Patterson Kay and her husband, Phillip: a daughter, Caroline Patterson, on Nov. 18, 2006. The family resides in Alexandria, Va., where Karrie is a reading specialist.

Clifford Rankin and his wife, Diane: a daughter, Kathryn Rose, in 2005. The family lives in Pittsburgh, where Cliff is director, client services at Smith Brothers Advertising.

94 Kristen Griffin Kelly and her husband, Christopher: a son, Nikolas Griffin, on Oct. 20, 2006. The family lives in North Huntingdon, where Kristen is a teacher in the Norwin School District.


Kathleen McTighe Lovett and her husband, David Lovett ’83: a daughter, Kaitlyn Rose, on Nov. 1, 2006. She joins Molly, 3, and Liam, 3, at home in Kosice, Slovakia, where Kathleen works for US Steel Kosice as IT manager.
Melissa Napoleon Mitchelltree and her husband, Thomas Mitchelltree: a daughter, Katherine Rose, on May 13, 2006.

Heather Nolan Aeppli and her husband, Todd Aeppli ‘93: a son, Hank Nolan, on Dec. 7, 2006. He joins Kate Amslee, 3, at home in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Heather is managing consultant for IBM, and Todd is a supply chain management consultant with IBM.

Kerry Fero Watson and her husband, Doug: a son, Benjamin, on June 8, 2006. He joins Emily, 3, at home in North Huntingdon.

Patricia James Mitchler and her husband, Raymond: a daughter, Maggie Mae, in Dec. 2006. The family resides in New Castle, where Patricia is publishing director at School/College Planning and Management.

Teresa Ann Mensch Stahl and her husband, Henry: twin sons, Branden Frederick and James Connolly, on Nov. 4, 2005. Teresa teaches science at Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County. The family resides in Pasadena, Md.


Kimberly McCaskey Lee and her husband, Philip: a son, Spencer John, on Nov. 5, 2006. Kimberly is a psychotherapist for UPMC. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

Amy Miller Dehan and her husband, Brian: a daughter, Audrey Louise, on May 7, 2006. The family lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.


Sherri Whitman Miller and her husband, Mark: a daughter, Caroline Grace, on Oct. 27, 2006. Sherri is an English teacher and writing clinician at Mt. Lebanon High School. The family lives in Washington.

Maria Yoneck Chichwak and her husband, Michael: a son, Evan, on Sept. 26, 2006. He joins Caitlin, 4, at home in Bethel Park. Maria is a software quality assurance manager with Management Science Associates.

Erin Remai Falco and her husband, Thomas: a son, Benjamin Thomas, on Nov. 22, 2006. Erin is public relations manager at UPMC Horizon. The family lives in Hermitage.

Mandy Snyder Corbett and her husband, Jeff: a son, Caeden Israel, on Sept. 13, 2006. He joins Annie MacKenzie, 5, Austin James-Gregory, 3, and Samuel Isaiah, 2, at home in Grove City.

Laurann Thein Collins and her husband, Mike: a daughter, Bridget Anne, on May 5, 2006. She joins Kevin, 7, and Abigail, 4, at home in Avon Lake, Ohio.


Dawn Wadsworth Booher and her husband, Shannon: a son, Kyle Joseph, on April 22, 2006. He joins Emily at home in Atwater, Ohio. (See also Class Notes)

Julie Bach Zebrine and her husband, Michael Zebrine ’00: twin daughters, Maria Elizabeth and Sophia Ann, on Nov. 20, 2006. Michael is a history teacher and Julie is a social worker in the South Butler County School District. The family lives in Gibsonia.

James Derence and his wife, Rhonda: a daughter, Anna Grace, on May 9, 2006. The family resides in Pittsburgh, where James is a juvenile probation officer for Allegheny County.

Lynn Folmer Homison and her husband, Mark Homison: a son, Mark Isaac, on Nov. 20, 2006. He joins Natalie, 4, and Elana, 2, at home in Baden. Mark is a chiropractor at Homison Chiropractic Center.

Stephanie Malisko Hurt and her husband, Joel Hurt ’96: a son, Ian Stanley, on Aug. 13, 2006. Stephanie is a teacher in the North Allegheny School District and Joel is an attorney with Malakoff, Doyle, Finberg. The family resides in Glenshaw.

Molly Sander Riva and her husband, Paul: a daughter, Trinity Maryann, on May 22, 2006. Molly teaches communications at Penn State Altoona. The family resides in Altoona.

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.

01 Kimberly Geisler McIntyre and her husband, Jason; a son, Roan Jack, on Nov. 1, 2006. Kimberly is a teacher in the Southern York County School District. The family resides in Red Lion.

02 Rachel Steele Pryke and her husband, David; a daughter, Abigail Elizabeth, on Aug. 31, 2006. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

03 Daniel Klipe and his wife, Lindsay; a son, Daniel Stephen Jr.; on Dec. 1, 2006. Daniel is a math teacher at Fox Chapel Area High School. The family resides in Plum Borough.

04 Christine Zarack Horne and her husband, Damon; a daughter, Elaine Louise, on Aug. 2, 2006. The family resides in Painesville Township, Ohio, where Christine is a teacher at St. Mary’s School.

In Memory

Naomi Rosenberger Herchenroether of Pittsburgh, Jan. 1, 2007. She was a retired English teacher from Liberty High School in Youngstown, Ohio. Survivors include her husband, George Herchenroether ’37.

Lois Anderson Hunter of Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 3, 2007. She was a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Sacramento Physician’s Auxiliary, Masonic activities and Shriner’s Children’s Hospital ancillary services. She also taught Sunday school and kindergarten.


The Rev. Ralph Donaldson of Washington, Feb. 17, 2007. He earned his master of theology degree from Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary and was ordained in 1947. He served seven churches in five states in more than 40 years in the pastorate. He retired in 1988 and was named pastor emeritus at Emmanuel UP Church in Eighty Four. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Eleanor Jane; a daughter and son-in-law; a son and daughter-in-law; and six grandchildren.

Evelyn Hoagland Powell of Industry, Dec. 14, 2006. She moved to San Diego in 1944. While there, she worked in the executive offices of Consolidated-Vultee. Returning to western Pennsylvania, she eventually became a special education teacher with the Beaver County Intermediate Unit and earned her master’s in education from Penn State. Survivors include three children, three grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Betty Naugle Parisen of Bethel Park, Jan. 2, 2007. She received her master’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh and worked as an educational therapist at the VA Hospital in Butler, as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration, as a teacher at Robert Morris College and as a teacher at Carrick High School. She retired in 1986. Survivors include two sisters, including Leah Naugle Heckro ’39; a half-sister; four nieces; two nephews; two great-nieces; and a cousin.

Dr. Jack Hicks of Erie, Dec. 21, 2006. He received his doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Pittsburgh and served in Japan during World War II. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Jennie; a son and daughter-in-law; and a sister, Marsha Hicks Julian ’58; and brother-in-law.

Mitchell Louis of Sarasota, Fla., Feb. 5, 2004. He was a former industrial relations specialist for the Chrysler Corporation.
50 John Wilson of Bethel Park, Dec. 18, 2006. He was a former manager for Hughes Aircraft Co.

51 Charles Paul of Livingston, N.J., July 6, 2006. His lifelong friend, Robert Dunseath ’49, talked him into coming to Westminster on a football scholarship and he was halfback on the Titan teams from 1948-1950. He was a retired track coach and teacher at Livingston High School. He is survived by three children and grandchildren.

Norma Williams Roberts of Palm Coast, Fla., Dec. 16, 2006. She earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from the College of William and Mary and worked for numerous organizations, including Hospice, Respite Care for the Elderly, Comprehensive Mental Health Services and Planned Parenthood. She was an active member of the Association for Research and Enlightenment in Virginia Beach. Survivors include three sons and three grandchildren.

53 The Rev. John Latta of Dacula, Ga., Sept. 24, 2006. He served six Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to Georgia. He spent his last five years at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville, Ga. Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Barb; four children and their spouses; a brother; three-sisters-in-law; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

William Meyer of Clarence, N.Y., July 30, 2006. He was a self-employed business consultant.

55 Marlene Johnston Rankin of Troy, N.Y., Nov. 18, 2005. Survivors include her husband, Marshall, and their three children.

Marjorie Rodger Park of Stuart, Fla., Jan. 12, 2007. She was the 1954 May Queen at Westminster and active in Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She was a volunteer in various community organizations. Survivors include her husband of 50 years, James; a son and daughter-in-law; three daughters and sons-in-law; a sister; and five grandchildren.

56 The Rev. John Latta of Dacula, Ga., Sept. 24, 2006. He served six Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to Georgia. He spent his last five years at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville, Ga. Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Barb; four children and their spouses; a brother; three-sisters-in-law; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

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William Meyer of Clarence, N.Y., July 30, 2006. He was a self-employed business consultant.

59 Priscilla Ross Franks of Dacula, Ga., Dec. 27, 2006. She received a master’s degree from George Mason University in 1989. She retired in 2002 as director of counseling services at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. Prior to that position, she was an elementary and middle school counselor and was a personal counselor at the Georgetown School. She previously served as a music educator at a number of schools in Virginia, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. She was active in the church and was a member of the Washington Crisis Intervention Team from 1994-2001. Survivors include her husband of 41 years, William; a son; a daughter; her mother, Charlotte Brand Ross ’43; four grandsons; a sister; and a brother.

61 Terrence Halupa of Aiken, S.C., July 31, 2006. He was a manager of commercial credit. Survivors include his wife, Diane.

63 MildredCrowder of Farrell, Dec. 23, 2006. She was formerly a teacher in the Farrell Area School District.

64 Priscilla Ross Franks of Dacula, Ga., Dec. 27, 2006. She received a master’s degree from George Mason University in 1989. She retired in 2002 as director of counseling services at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. Prior to that position, she was an elementary and middle school counselor and was a personal counselor at the Georgetown School. She previously served as a music educator at a number of schools in Virginia, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. She was active in the church and was a member of the Washington Crisis Intervention Team from 1994-2001. Survivors include her husband of 41 years, William; a son; a daughter; her mother, Charlotte Brand Ross ’43; four grandsons; a sister; and a brother.

67 Richard Craig Lampe of Portland, Ore., Jan. 17, 2007. He received the Bronze Star while serving in Vietnam and recently retired after 25 years as vice president of marketing and sales at Wanke Cascade. Survivors include his wife, Janis; a son; a brother; a sister, Allyson Lampe Hopkins ’69; and an extended step-family.

68 James Mapes of Raleigh, N.C.

81 Deborah Sich Henson of Fairfax, Va., Feb. 7, 2007. She worked for more than 18 years in political and non-profit fund raising in Washington, D.C. She had served as manager of bands led by her husband and supported the Fairfax High School Jazz Band. Survivors include her husband of 15 years, Garry; a brother; a great-aunt; two aunts; two uncles; and many cousins.


Information Update

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

Name ______________________________________________ Class ________________________ Today’s Date ____________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________________________________ State ______ Zip _______ ________

Social Security Number _______________________________ I.D. Number (see mailing label) _______________________

Occupation _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Name of Employer __________________________________________ City ________________________ State ______ Zip _______ ________

Home Telephone __________________________________ Business Telephone ________________________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. ____________________________________________________________

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

*Please state your zip + 4. Refer to your utility bills for this number.
“I think it’s important for everyone to be involved and give back... I hope my example might encourage others to do the same.”

– Robert L. Merwin ’54

Even though he’s miles away on the island of St. Croix in the Caribbean Sea, Mr. Merwin, our own Titan of the Caribbean, has chosen to fund a charitable gift annuity to benefit Westminster.

To read more about Robert Merwin in the latest Legacy Society newsletter, please view the story online at http://www.westminster.edu/alumni/for_our_future/fof_legacy_society.cfm

For more information on charitable gift annuities or other planned giving opportunities, contact Sue Rudloff at 724.946.7673 or rudlofse@westminster.edu.
The annual end-of-the-year Volleyrock event meant a day of festivities for all. Students were treated to volleyball, games, music, and great food.