Fresh Start

Off to a Fresh Start
A Message from the President

Dear Westminster Friends:

Each year we mark the beginning of the academic year with an Opening Convocation. Orr Auditorium is filled with hope, gratitude, confidence, and occasionally a few fears and tears as first-year students and their families contemplate the significance of a day they will long remember.

For faculty, staff and administration, Convocation is an especially joyous time because we know first-hand that the students who have been admitted to Westminster will do well, meet lifelong friends (even spouses), and find fulfilling careers. Throughout their lives they will return to this campus to be renewed by its beauty and substance. And in 2061 they will gather for a 50th reunion with their classmates to remark that the time seemingly has evaporated since they sat together in Orr at the beginning of their Westminster experience.

Alumni know that the Westminster experience lasts a lifetime and, soon, our new students will know it too. The education, the relationships, the place – it will all be a part of us forever.

It is going to be another good year at Westminster. We hope you will come back to campus to continue your own Westminster experience and reminisce about your first day at the College.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Williamson
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Westminster welcomes the Class of 2011.
Westminster College is ranked 15th among the nation’s 201 liberal arts colleges, according to the Washington Monthly’s 2007 Annual College Guide.

The third annual college guide ranks the nation’s colleges and universities on social mobility (a measure of how well the school performs as an engine of social mobility by exceeding its predicted graduation rate and serving students); research (how the school supports scientific and humanistic study); and service (how effectively does the school foster an ethic of giving back to the country through service).

Westminster College ranked third in the country in social mobility by exceeding its predicted graduation rate by 17%. Westminster was 20th in the nation in service and 71st in graduates who earn PhDs.

“The Washington Monthly College Rankings are meant to provide: a guide not just to what colleges can do for you, but what colleges are doing for the country. For the third year in a row, we’ve sifted through reams of publicly available data to come up with what we think is a fair assessment of which colleges are living up to their public interest mission, and which aren’t,” according to the Washington Monthly.

“We aren’t trying, as U.S. News does, to rate how selective or academically prestigious a given school is, but rather how much it contributes to the common good,” Washington Monthly Editor Paul Glastris said. “The whole point is to recognize the broader role colleges and universities play in our national life and to reward those institutions that best fulfill that role.

Glastris added, “If you’re looking for information on which schools are the most selective, or which have the nicest swimming pools, the Washington Monthly College Rankings aren’t for you. But we hope they will be some use – to students of modest means looking for colleges that will help them succeed; to alumni wanting to get a sense of their alma maters’ commitment to the public interest; or to elected officials trying to think of ways to get more bang for the public bucks they’re charged with spending on higher education.”

A campus visit is the best way to discover which college is right for you. Visit www.westminster.edu or call 1-800-942-8033 to learn more about Westminster College.

Westminster College Joins U-CAN Project

Westminster College is one of the pioneers in helping consumers find information about selecting the ideal college through its participation in the University and College Accountability Network (U-CAN).

The U-CAN Web site (www.ucan-network.org) is the first nationally coordinated effort by institutions themselves, private or public, to collect and report data and qualitative information directly to consumers. The project, coordinated by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), includes over 600 colleges and all content and design have been driven by consumer comments and field tests.

U-CAN features two-page profiles of institutions covering: admissions, enrollment, academics, student demographics, graduation rates, most common fields of study, transfer policies, accreditation, faculty information, class size, tuition and fees trends, price of attendance, financial aid, campus housing, student life, and campus safety. Links are also provided for additional information from campus Web sites.

All information at www.ucan-network.org is free and NAICU does not accept advertising or sponsorships on the site. U-CAN information is derived from the U.S. Department of Education’s IPEDS survey and the Common Data Set. The site was launched Sept. 26.

“Trying to compare information and evaluate colleges can be confusing to prospective students and their families,” said Westminster College President R. Thomas Williamson. “U-CAN offers data in a concise, user-friendly format that empowers families to make informed decisions about finding the college that is right for them. An informed consumer and a great college are a perfect match. Westminster is very pleased to be among the first in the nation to participate in this worthwhile project.”
Westminster College is among the nation’s best in enhancing the educational achievement of its students, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2008 Guide to America’s Best Colleges.

Westminster is tied for seventh among Liberal Arts Colleges and in the top 10 of all colleges in graduation rate performance. Westminster’s 78 percent graduation rate was 15 percent higher than predicted.

The indicator, developed by U.S. News and previously called “value added,” shows the effect of the college’s programs and policies on the graduation rate of its students after controlling for spending and student aptitude.

The score is determined by measuring the difference between a school’s six-year graduation rate for the class that entered in 2000, and the predicted graduation rate for the class. The predicted graduation rate is calculated using a formula that accounts for the standardized test scores of these students and the school’s expenditures on them over the years. If the actual graduation rate is higher than the predicted rate, the college is enhancing the students’ achievement.

“We are pleased to be recognized by the national media for serving our students – Westminster’s number one objective,” said Westminster College President R. Thomas Williamson.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reclassified higher education institutions in 2006 resulting in a new classification system for U.S. News & World Report. This year 266 colleges were included in the category, and these institutions must award at least 50 percent of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines and emphasize undergraduate education.

Westminster College Adds Six New Full-Time Faculty

Westminster College has added six new full-time faculty members for the 2007-08 academic year.

Dr. Michael E. Alaprete Jr., assistant professor of political science, earned his undergraduate degree from Duquesne University and his master’s and doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. He was a visiting assistant professor at Franklin and Marshall College and has additional teaching experience from Dickinson College, The Pennsylvania State University (Erie and New Kensington campuses), Berry College, Duquesne University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Douglas N. Armstead, assistant professor of physics, earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate from the University of Maryland at College Park. He comes to Westminster from The College of Wooster. He has taught at SUNY College at Oneonta.

Dr. SoYoung Kang, assistant professor of education, earned her undergraduate degree from Korea University; her master’s from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; and her doctorate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She comes to Westminster with teaching experience from Ohio University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Dr. Jason Howard, visiting lecturer of music, earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Youngstown State University.

Dr. Jacque L. King, assistant professor of business, previously served Westminster as a visiting lecturer. He earned his undergraduate degree from Washington and Jefferson College and his master’s and doctorate from Regent University. He has experience as an administrator, director, adviser, and assistant professor in the doctor of strategic leadership program at Regent University.

Dr. Danielle M. Ficco, visiting assistant professor of sociology, earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. She has taught at Washington and Jefferson College, Carlow University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Jason Howard, visiting lecturer of music, earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Youngstown State University.

Dr. Jason Howard, visiting lecturer of music, earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Youngstown State University.
Dr. Timothy Cuff ’78, assistant professor of history at Westminster College, had a book review published in April 2007 edition of The American Historical Review. Cuff reviewed “Financial Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America Rich” by Robert E. Wright and David J. Cowen. Cuff’s review described Wright and Cowen’s collective biography of nine men notable in the formation and early operation of the U.S. financial system as “a welcome addition to the literature [which] meets its objective of providing an accessible introduction to the importance of the nation’s financial infrastructure to its economic and political success.”

Dr. Russell Martin, associate professor of history, was awarded honorary membership in the Russian Imperial Union-Order (RIU-O), the oldest and most distinguished Russian émigré monarchist organization in the world. Martin was honored by the RIU-O for his work with the organization, most recently producing a translation of the official webpage of the Imperial House. Martin has appeared on A&E Biography in a broadcast on Ivan the Terrible as an expert on the controversial ruler.

Elizabeth Harrison, assistant professor of theory and organ, played a concert on the historic Arp Schnitger organ in Cappel, Germany, in June. She was the only American invited to participate in the Cappel concert series this year. The 1680 organ is one of the best preserved historical instruments from the seventeenth century. Harrison was in Germany with two groups of students as part of the Westminster Historic Organ Program. Craig Dressler, a senior religious studies and music major, accompanied Harrison for the first half of the trip and also had the opportunity to practice and have lessons on the Schnitger organ.

Dr. Matthew W. Sivils, assistant professor of English, participated in a trio of events related to literature of the early American Republic. He attended the 18th annual American Literature Association conference in Boston, where he chaired the James Fenimore Cooper Society panel. Sivils traveled to Worcester, Mass., to attend the 2007 American Antiquarian Society Summer Seminar on the History of the Book, “Re-Reading the Early Republic: From Crévecoeur to Cooper.” Sivils also presented a paper, “Cooper’s Grassy Sepulchres: The Grotesque Landscapes of The Last of the Mohicans and The Prairie,” at the 16th annual James Fenimore Cooper Conference at the State University of New York College at Oneonta. At the same meeting, he was re-elected to the board of directors of the James Fenimore Cooper Society.

Dr. John C. Robertson, associate professor of biology, was published in The American Biology Teacher. His paper, “Investigating Human Evolution Using Digital Imaging and Cranimetry,” describes a laboratory activity he developed that is used in evolution and foundations of biology classes at Westminster. “Students take digital images of skulls or skull casts of hominids (humans, fossil human ancestors, and great apes), then gather and compare measurement data from those images and skulls. Students get a ‘hands-on’ feel for evolution and generate quantitative data. They can apply their results to hypotheses they have developed, as well as to current models for the evolution of humans,” said Robertson.

Dr. Carolyn Cuff ’78, professor of mathematics, attended an American Statistical Association (ASA) conference in Salt Lake City. Cuff, who worked on the original Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) report, was part of an invited panel. “The guidelines were recently approved by the ASA. The panel was invited to discuss how the guidelines can be implemented in various types of colleges and universities and our successes with the implementation,” Cuff said.

Dr. Pete Smith, assistant professor of chemistry, had his article “High-Purity Rare Earth Oxides Produced via Precipitation Stripping” published in the journal Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B. Smith has been investigating the use of precipitation stripping to produce lanthanide oxide powders since he was a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Precipitation stripping is an environmentally friendly technique that has the potential to reduce or eliminate the use of highly concentrated acids during the separation and purification of lanthanide ions. In a typical industrial facility, these highly concentrated acid solutions must be neutralized before the purified lanthanide ion can be processed. This neutralization generates a large amount of aqueous salt waste. Precipitation stripping bypasses the use of highly concentrated acids, so no neutralization is necessary, thereby greatly reducing the amount of waste water generated by the industrial facility. Smith is the first person to perform a detailed study on the purity of lanthanide oxides produced by precipitation stripping.
Faculty Members Earn Promotions

- Dr. David L. Barner was promoted to professor of broadcast communications. He is currently chair of the Department of Communication Studies, Theatre, and Art and has been with Westminster since 1981. He earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Shippensburg University and his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

- Dr. Anne Hagan Bentz was promoted to associate professor of music. She has been with Westminster since 2001. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Delaware and her doctorate at the University of Maryland.

- Dr. Helen M. Boylan was promoted to associate professor of chemistry. She has been with Westminster since 2001. She earned her undergraduate degree from Westminster College and her doctorate from Duquesne University.

- Dr. Craig L. Caylor was promoted to associate professor of physics. He has been at Westminster since 2001. He earned his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University and his master’s and doctorate from Cornell University.

- Dr. Nancy J. DeSalvo was promoted to associate professor of music. The current chair of the Department of Music, she has been with Westminster since 2000. She earned her undergraduate degree from Youngstown State University, her master’s from Manhattan School of Music and her doctorate from The Cleveland Institute of Music.

- Dr. William J. Evans was promoted to professor of education. He has been with Westminster since 2001. He earned his undergraduate degree from The Pennsylvania State University, his master’s from Youngstown State University and his doctorate from Kent State University.

- Dr. Bethany F. Hicok was promoted to associate professor of English. She has been with Westminster since 2001. She earned her undergraduate degree from Russell Sage College and her master’s and doctorate from the University of Rochester.

- D. Scott Renninger was promoted to professor of physical education. Currently chair of the Department of Physical Education and head tennis coach, he has been with Westminster since 1978. He earned his undergraduate degree from Heidelberg College and his master’s from Eastern Michigan University.

Visit www.westminster.edu/news for the latest Westminster News
Westminster College professors Dr. Kristin Park, associate professor of sociology, and Dr. Joel Postema, assistant professor of Spanish, attended an international faculty development seminar with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in Nicaragua.

Funding to attend was supplied through Westminster’s annual CIEE Award and a gift from the Class of 1981.

The seminar theme, “Revolution and the Rise of Neoliberalism,” included the topics “The Sandanista Revolution and its Legacy;” “The Contra War and its Impact on Nicaraguan Society,” including a roundtable with former combatants; “Religion in Nicaragua;” and “Poverty and Development.” Session presenters were academics in the social sciences and current and past policy makers in the Nicaraguan government and international organizations.

Postema particularly appreciated “International Development in the Nicaraguan Context,” the presentation by Paul Oquist.

“Although he did talk about international development, most of the time was dedicated to explaining why, as a young American, he moved to Nicaragua during a time of conflict and some of the things he experienced,” Postema said.

Park found the most moving session to be the former resistance (“Contra”) fighters and former Sandanista soldiers speaking about their efforts at reconciliation since the 1980s war.

Opportunities for travel within the country included visits to historical and political monuments, performances of traditional music and dance, an arts and crafts market, and a boat trip around the islands near Granada. Postema traveled to Villa el Carmen with Kristin Allen ’07, a summer intern in the schools.

One of Park’s applications of the seminar is her creation of an assignment for her social theory class.

“Students will take on various roles in Nicaraguan society, including a Sandinista party member, a Miskito Indian and Contra fighter, a high ranking Catholic church official, a peasant, a college student, and the social theorist Karl Marx,” she said. “They research the role in terms of that person’s likely response, based on his or her social position, values and interests, to the 1979 Sandinista revolution. They will then role play what they have learned. They are also asked to apply their knowledge of the Marxist theory to assess the extent to which the Sandinista revolution matched Marx’s vision and predictions.”

“The most tangible application of the seminar will be in a course on Nicaraguan culture and history I will be teaching this fall,” Postema said. “The perspectives I have gained about post-Sandanista government and politics will help me better present this chaotic period in a clear way to that particular class. I have brought back materials such as menus and laundry checklists that I plan to use in language courses. Perhaps most importantly, the ability to travel and use Spanish every day is immeasurably beneficial.”

Park has been with Westminster since 1993. She earned her undergraduate degree at Colgate University and her master’s and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Postema has been with Westminster since 2005 and is an endowed professor of humanities. He earned his undergraduate degree from Calvin College, his master’s from Western Michigan University, and his Ph.D. from Washington University.
An American in Nicaragua

By Elizabeth Fontaine Hildebrand ’92

The thought of traveling to a third-world country infamous for its decades of political unrest only lingered in Kristin Allen’s head for a few moments. It was a chance for her to help others and improve her language skills, and she wasn’t about to let a little history stand in her way.

After earning her bachelor of arts degree in Spanish in May, Allen spent two months in the Nicaraguan capital city of Managua this past summer undertaking two internship opportunities that were made possible with the help of two Westminster alumni: board of trustees members Bill Rankin ’60 and Dr. Richard White ’61.

“Through her alumni connections, she was introduced to Michael Cobb, co-founder and CEO of the Gran Pacifica resort community along the coast of Nicaragua. Allen was offered an internship at Gran Pacifica, as well as a second opportunity with a project known as CHESS (Children, Health, Education and Supporting Services) funded in part by Gran Pacifica.

Allen admitted her parents were initially "a bit leery" about their daughter going to a country perhaps best known for the 1980s struggle between U.S.-backed Contra rebels and the Sandinista regime.

“I think they knew that it was something I really wanted to do and they knew I would be helping others,” she said, “They supported me every step of the way.”

After much research and talking with others who had traveled to Nicaragua—including a Gran Pacifica intern from the previous summer—she accepted.

“It seemed like a great adventure, and I am all for trying new things,” said Allen. “Once I was there, I was glad that I had taken that chance. Not once did I ever feel unsafe. I was in good hands at all times, and every person I met treated me with the utmost kindness.”

Allen spent much of her time with the CHESS project in Villa El Carmen, working with fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade English classes in 12 rural schools.

“Despite the unrelenting heat and trekking through difficult terrain, I found that working in the schools with the niños was one of my favorite things to do,” Allen said. “They were all so eager and enthusiastic to learn English, and every time I visited I was more impressed with their progress.”

Allen was also able to learn true Nicaraguan culture by spending her nights in Villa El Carmen in the home of a Nicaraguan woman.

“I took to calling her my Mamá Nicaraguense because she took such good care of me when I stayed—and her cuisine was to die for. I never left the table still feeling hungry,” Allen said. “And the chickens that would casually wander into her kitchen—I eventually began to consider them as pets.”

The days outside of Villa El Carmen Allen spent working in the office of Gran Pacifica in Managua.

“This has also been very beneficial for me because I received a first-hand education on how real estate works in a developing country,” Allen said, adding that some of her duties included translating articles and documents and editing the company’s Web site and tourism handbook.

While in Managua, Allen was able to attend a forum and workshop on sustainable tourism. She learned about the challenges that many new tourism companies face in developing nations as well as plans and possible solutions for the future of sustainable tourism in Nicaragua.

Traveling abroad was nothing new to Allen; she toured Spain at 16 with her high school Spanish club, spent a semester in Seville during her junior year in 2006, and participated in a two-week tour of Italy as part of a travel course at Westminster.

“Westminster may be a small campus in a small town, but it really has opened a lot of doors to big opportunities for me,” she said. “Not only was I well-prepared academically [for this trip] with my Spanish language skills, which I owe to the excellent professors that I have had, but it also prepared me in terms of becoming an individual. Throughout my college career, I have certainly become more independent and eager to take risks and try new things. “My experience in Nicaragua was surely beyond rewarding,” Allen said. “I am so grateful to Mr. Rankin and Dr. White for their assistance. Once you become a member of the Westminster family, you find help and guidance in all directions.”

Allen is currently involved with an eight-month bilingual project in Seville, Spain, where she is working in a high school as a language and culture assistant through the Consellería de Educación of the Spanish Embassy of the United States.

(Hildebrand is editor of Westminster Magazine.)
Biology Major Completes Summer Research Program

Cory Mathias, a junior biology major, completed a 12-week summer research training program at the University of Pittsburgh. Funding was provided by the National Institutes of Health.

Mathias worked with Dr. Kelly Brant and Dr. James Fabisiak in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. His research, “Hypoxia Mimetics and Microbial Stimulations via Toll-Like Receptor-2 (TLR-2) Interact to Amplify a Pro-angiogenic Phenotype in Human Lung Fibroblast,” was presented at the 2007 Summer Research Symposium July 27 at Duquesne University.

Mathias worked with the Fabisiak lab to study capillary growth in lung tissues.

“Medical school has always been my ultimate goal,” Mathias said. “However, working with the Fabisiak lab has opened my eyes to other options, including the possibility of entering an M.D./Ph.D. program. Research is a long and tedious process, but the rewards are astounding. I plan on continuing my research with the Fabisiak lab, and I hope to make contributions to medicine and science through this work.”

Math Majors Participate in Research Experiences

Westminster College senior mathematics majors Bryan Bischof and Anna Sparacino were selected to be part of the 2007 Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), a program supported by the National Science Foundation.

Bischof worked with Dr. David Yetter at Kansas State University. His research, “Brainstorming and Barnstorming: Mathematics Related to Flight,” was in the area of knot theory and produced a paper that will be submitted for publication. Students also had the opportunity to learn to fly.

Sparacino spent the summer at Akron University working with Dr. Deena Schmidt from Cornell. For their project, “The Evolution of the ABO Blood Group System: A Mathematical Model,” they used differential equations and computer simulations to study the evolution of blood types in various populations.

Preschool Lab Earns National Accreditation

Westminster College’s Preschool Lab (WCPL), a part of the psychology department, is one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Dr. Mandy Medvin, professor of psychology and director of the Preschool Lab. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

Teachers who participated in the accreditation process are Diana Reed and Deborah Roud.

The mission of the WCPL is to provide a model of excellence in early childhood education for the western Pennsylvania region. The program serves as a training facility for Westminster college students interested in working with young children.

To earn NAEYC accreditation in the new system, the WCPL went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. The program received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the 10 NAEYC program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.
Eight Endowed Scholarships Created

Eight endowed scholarships were created during the last fiscal year, representing an initial cumulative contribution of $1,362,792. Endowed scholarships are established by alumni and friends for the sole purpose of providing supplemental sources of financial assistance to students who meet the criteria set by the donors.

- **The Clifford A. Collins Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Established upon the death of Lula K. Collins as a memorial tribute to Clifford A. Collins ’30. Recipients must have a minimum recalculated GPA of 3.5 and will be first-year students who are graduates of any public high school within Mercer County. Awards are renewable for up to four years provided the students remain in good academic standing and are responsible citizens of the campus and larger community.

- **The James C. Craig and Kay Barrett Craig Scholarship Fund:** Established in memory of James C. Craig and Kay Barrett Craig. Mrs. Craig was admitted to Westminster in 1954 and completed two full years of study. Provided to a deserving full-time female student who demonstrates financial need. First preference will be given to a female non-traditional student pursuing a degree in any field of study. Second preference will be given to a female traditional student who plans to enter the medical field.

- **The Donald J. Davis Scholarship Fund:** Established in 2006 by Donald J. Davis ’49 of Sarasota, Fla. The award is given to a student whose primary interest and study is the vocal arts. Income from the fund will be awarded annually to a student based upon financial need.

- **For Our Future General Scholarship Fund:** Established in 2006 through an estate gift from an anonymous donor. Income from the fund is awarded annually to a student with financial need.

- **Mary Lowe Fair Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Established upon the death of Francis Fair, Youngstown, Ohio. Fund shall be used for scholarship aid for Native Americans or descendants of Native Americans.

- **The Ken and Nancy Long Chemistry Lectureship:** Established by Dr. Ken and Nancy Long in 2006 to fund an annual lecture in the broad field of chemistry. Dr. Long taught in the Department of Chemistry at Westminster from 1962-2002.

- **The Emily and Ronald Mackall Scholarship Fund:** Established through a bequest from Emily Parker Mackall ’34. The fund represents a memorial tribute to Mrs. Mackall and her husband, Ronald B. Mackall. Scholarship recipients must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be good citizens of the campus and larger community. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years.

- **The M. Jeane Myers / Zech Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Established in 2007 by Chalmers E. Zech ’47 as a memorial tribute to his wife, M. Jeane Myers Zech ’47. Income from the fund will be awarded to a female student majoring in music (vocal) performance or music education. First preference will be given to students from Lawrence and Mercer counties. Conditions for scholarship renewal require that the recipient maintain a GPA of 3.0 and remain enrolled as a music or music education major.

For the full descriptions of these endowed scholarships or to establish a scholarship of your own, please contact Sue Rudloff, director of advancement programs, at 724-946-7673 or rudlofse@westminster.edu.

Advancement Offices See Restructuring

Within the past year, three departments in the division of institutional advancement have seen significant restructuring.

In development, M. Thomas Taylor was named director of annual and foundation giving programs. Taylor works directly with Merrianne H. McGill ’05, coordinator of the Westminster Fund.

Elizabeth “Biz” Hines ’70 was named director of alumni planning and programming and works in the Wiley Alumni House with Mary Cooley James ’84, director of alumni relations. Hines formerly served as director of the Westminster Fund.

In communications services and publications, Betsy Fontaine Hildebrand ’92 was hired as director of publications and editor of Westminster Magazine. Sandra Chandler, former print production coordinator, was named communications specialist following the retirement of Carol Eberhart ’94. Jody Peterson was hired as an assistant to the graphic designer, Deborah Parady.
Softball (24-15, 11-1 PAC)

Much of the Westminster softball team’s success in 2007 came by way of senior pitcher/first baseman Jennifer Pancake, who set the school single-season home run (9) and RBI (42) records and led the PAC in earned-run average en route to first-team all-PAC and PAC Player of the Year honors.

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.

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.

Drespling, who started all 38 games for the Titans, ranked seventh in the league in batting average (.368) and led Westminster with a .388 average (50 for 129). He clubbed four home runs, two triples and 12 doubles during the season for a .605 slugging percentage and 27 RBI, while stealing a team-high 13 bases on 19 attempts.

Izzo, who started 34 games for the Titans, batted .333 (37 for 111) for the fourth-highest average on the team, while hitting five homers, four triples and nine doubles for a .622 slugging percentage and 20 RBI.

Senior Mike O’Leary was also voted team MVP after batting .333 (18 for 54) in 21 games mostly as a designated hitter.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GOLF (6-15 WOMEN’S, 19-26 MEN’S)
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 spring season records of 6-15 and 19-26, 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.

Gene Nicholson completed his seventh season as men’s golf coach and Debi Roud wrapped up her sixth year leading the Titan women.

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 87 singles record at the No. 3 position.
MEN’S AND WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

The Westminster women’s track and field team placed second and the Titan men sixth at the 2007 PAC Championships.

The Titan women had medalists in 15 events, including three event winners, and the Titan men had top-eight finishers in six events.

Sophomore Katelyn Kushner won the 100- and 400-meter hurdles, while sophomore Rebecca Shiner also won the 1,500 run. Both earned first-team all-PAC honors in their respective events.

Lead by fourth-year head coach Don Augustine, the Westminster women set 13 new indoor school records in 2006-07 and five outdoor school records in 2007.

Postseason qualifiers for the Titan women included 10 entries in eight events for the ECAC indoor championships and six entries in six events at the ECAC indoor meet.

Senior Rebecca Green also won the 1,500 run. Both earned first-team all-PAC honors in their respective events.

Two added to Hand’s coaching staff

Mike Donato and Joe Greco, two former head coaches at area high schools, were added as assistant football coaches on head coach Jeff Hand’s staff for the 2007 season.

Donato joins the Titan coaching staff after coaching in the high school ranks for 23 years. He was the head coach at Kennedy Catholic High School in Sharon, from 2003-06 after serving as an assistant at his alma mater of Sharon High for 19 years, including nine years as defensive coordinator. Donato coached 10 teams that won the District 10 Championships, including one as head coach for Kennedy in 2005. The District 10 champion Sharon teams of 1994 and 1995 advanced to the state championship game.

During his playing career, Donato was a four-year starter and a three-year first-team all-conference linebacker at Thiel College before graduating in 1970 with a business degree.

A retired captain for the City of Sharon Fire Department, Donato currently resides in his hometown of Sharon.

Greco was head coach at New Brighton High School for 11 years (1995-2006) and served on the staff a total of 21 years. He was the MAC Coach of the Year in 1995 and 2001, and was the president of the conference’s coaches association in 1999. Greco has worked several football camps including camps at Penn State and Pitt and he was also a guest speaker at the Nike Coach of the Year Clinic in 2002.

A 1990 graduate of Slippery Rock University, Greco is currently an elementary and middle school teacher in the New Brighton Area School District.

McNeil returns to alma mater to lead track & field, cross country

Tim McNeil ’96, former Titan track and field and football standout, has been selected as the head men’s and women’s track and field coach and head men’s and women’s cross country coach. In a newly-created position within the athletic department, McNeil becomes Westminster’s first full-time coach responsible for coaching both sports.

McNeil excelled for the Titans in track and field and football while a student. In track, McNeil was a three-time qualifier for the NAIA national championships in the 400-meter hurdles from 1994-96. His school record of 53.8 in the 400 hurdles still stands, while he also currently holds the school indoor record for the 55-meter high hurdles (7.9).

On the gridiron, McNeil was the most valuable player in the 1994 NAIA national championship game after catching two touchdown passes as the Titans defeated Pacific Lutheran, 27-7, for their sixth and most recent national championship. McNeil ranks second on the school’s career receptions list (128) and fifth in the receiving yards (1,849) to go with 15 career touchdown receptions in four seasons from 1992-95. He also owns the school’s single-season receptions record with 61 in 1994.

“I am extremely pleased and excited that Tim has accepted the challenge of being the head coach for both the track and field and cross country teams at Westminster,” said Westminster Athletic Director Jim Dafler.

“Tim has the experience and qualifications we were seeking and all who knew him as a Titan student-athlete expect him to bring the same dedication, enthusiasm, and energy to coaching that he did when competing.”

McNeil’s coaching experience includes six years as the head boys and girls track and field coach at John F. Kennedy High School in Warren, Ohio, where he served as the school’s assistant principal from 2000-06. McNeil’s JFK girls teams won five straight district championships and his boys teams claimed three district titles, while a total of 55 athletes qualified for the state meet, including four individual champions and one relay champion.

While at JFK, McNeil also coached the freshmen football team from 2000-05 and the boys and girls cross country coach in 2005. McNeil comes to Westminster after spending one year as an English teacher at Governor Thomas Johnson High School in Frederick, Md.

A 2005 inductee to the Westminster Titan Sports Hall of Fame, McNeil completed his master’s degree in education from his alma mater in 2004.

Visit www.westminster.edu/sports for the latest Titan sports news
Athletes Honored with WESPY Awards

The Westminster College Department of Athletics and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee hosted the Fourth Annual WESPY Awards (Westminster Exceptional Sports Performance of the Year) in May at Orr Auditorium.

The WESPY’s honored team MVPs for all 18 varsity sports teams, as well as several annual awards and recognition of top athletic achievements throughout the 2006-07 academic year.

Highlighting the event was the presentation of the annual David B. Fawcett and Marjorie A. Walker Awards, given annually to honor and acknowledge those individuals who best exemplify the qualities of fairness, sportsmanship, leadership, determination and competitiveness.

The Fawcett Award was given to senior swimmer Ryan Trunk, while the Walker Award was presented to senior volleyball player Katie McDermott.

Trunk was an All-American in three events in 2006-07, including a second-place finish at the NCAA Division III Championships in the 100 freestyle with a school-record time of 44.93. A holder of six school records in both relays and individual events, Trunk helped lead Westminster to a second straight Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship and a 20th place finish at the NCAA Championships.

McDermott was the PAC Player of the Year in 2006 after leading the Titans to a PAC-best 10-2 record in the regular season before the team finished with an overall mark of 24-12 and a berth in the ECAC Division III Southern Championships. Also a first-team all-PAC selection, McDermott led the Titans in kills per game (2.92) and hitting percentage (.373).

The WESPY Award, given for the top single-event athletic performance by a Titan male and female athlete of the year, was voted on by the entire campus community. The men’s WESPY went to Trunk, who earned the award for a fourth straight year for his performance at the NCAA Division III Championships.

The women’s WESPY, also a repeat winner, went to sophomore track and field athlete Katelyn Kushner, who won the 100- and 400-meter hurdles at the PAC Championships with times of 15.55 and 1:06.97, respectively. Her time in the 100 hurdles was a new PAC record.

The Senior Scholar Athlete Awards, given annually to the graduating senior male and female student-athletes with the cumulative grade point averages, were presented to swimmer Chip Hothem and softball player Heather Gurgiolo. Hothem is an English major with a GPA of 3.757, while political science major Gurgiolo boasts a 3.968 GPA.

The Honorary Titan Award was presented to Ed Bender, equipment manager. Bender, who joined Westminster during the 1999-2000 season, retired in August. Prior to coming to Westminster, Bender was a retired school teacher in the New Castle School District.

Dr. Joseph M. Balczon, professor of biology, earned the WESPY Professor of the Year Award. Coach of the Year Awards were presented to women’s basketball coach Rosanne Scott and men’s soccer coach Girish Thakar.

Team MVPs

- Baseball: Mike O’Leary
- Women’s Basketball: Desiree Sterling
- Men’s Basketball: Greg Rosatelli
- Women’s Cross Country: Elizabeth Beardsley
- Men’s Cross Country: Scott Seserko
- Football: Brett Ziegler
- Women’s Golf: Kelly Spisak
- Men’s Golf: Nick Marzo
- Women’s Soccer: Christina Adams
- Men’s Soccer: Andrew Saporito
- Softball: Jennifer Pancake
- Women’s Swimming: Megan Mclaughlin
- Men’s Swimming: Ryan Trunk
- Women’s Tennis: Dana Larson
- Men’s Tennis: Fred Romeo
- Women’s Track and Field: Katelyn Kushner
- Men’s Track and Field: Scott Seserko
- Volleyball: Katie McDermott

Scholar-athletes Earn Recognition

Three Westminster swimmers were named to 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District teams, while two other athletes were named to the publication’s all-district women’s track and field/cross country team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Senior Brittany Thomas was selected to the second team of the all-District II College Division for women’s at-large sports. Senior Ryan Trunk and sophomore Conor Simpson were each named to the second team all-District II College Division for men’s at-large sports.

Thomas, who posted a 3.61 GPA, won conference titles in the 500, 1,000 and 1,650-yard freestyle events at the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) Championships in 2007. Her meet-high 60 points at the championships helped the Titans win their second consecutive PAC team title.

With a 3.41 GPA, Trunk earned All-America status in three events in 2007. Trunk, a school record-holder in six events, tied for second place in the 100 freestyle at the NCAA Division III Championships. Trunk also garnered All-America honors in the 50 freestyle and as anchor of the 400 medley relay team. Simpson, who earned a 3.87 GPA, earned All-America honors as a member of the 400 medley relay team that placed eighth nationally. Simpson is also a two-time PAC champion in the 100 butterfly. Trunk and Simpson helped the Titans win the PAC team title for a second straight year and finish 20th nationally.

Junior Leanna Stitt and sophomore Kristen Van Sickel also were selected to the second team of the all-District II College Division.

Stitt, a member of the Titan cross country team, consistently finished as one of the team’s top three finishers in 2006. She ran identical 6-kilometer times of 28:32 in the 2006 PAC Championships and the NCAA Division III Mideast Regional placing 40th and 189th, respectively. A three-time member of the PAC Academic Honor Roll, Stitt carried a 3.96 GPA.

Van Sickel, a member of the Titan track and field team, is a combined holder of eight indoor and outdoor school records. She placed third in the 400 (57.64) at the ECAC Division III outdoor championships and broke her own school record in the 400 (57.34) a week earlier at Wheeling Jesuit. A member of two school record-holding relay teams, Van Sickel also set three indoor records in 2007 in the 300 (43.2), 400 (1:00.06) and 500 (1:18.94). Van Sickel held a 3.89 GPA.

The District II College Division consists of all non-NCAA Division I college and universities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. To be nominated for the program, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore with a 3.2 or higher cumulative grade-point average and be a starter or significant reserve.
July 18 – Lafayette, IN.
Carey Anne Meyer LaSor ’86, coordinator of the Young Presbyterian Scholars Program, and Gina Sharbaugh, associate director of admissions, traveled to Lafayette, Ind., for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium on the campus of Purdue University. While in Lafayette, Carey Anne and Gina had dessert with Aaron Bruck ’06, a graduate student in the chemistry department at Purdue. Carey Anne and Gina also had the opportunity to meet with several of Westminster’s incoming YPS students at the Triennium: Michelle Carl of Ebensburg, Suzanne Palumbo of Kearney, Mo., Molly Rangel of Lincoln, Neb., Matthew Wilson and Katie Gray, both of Pittsburgh, and Alison Paden of Brookville.

August 12 – Slippery Rock
A fun afternoon of baseball was enjoyed by 14 alumni and guests at a Slippery Rock Sliders Baseball game. A picnic was held before the game. The Sliders are the first professional baseball team to call Butler County home in 55 years.

June 23 – Pittsburgh
Sixty-five alumni and guests gathered at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium for a day at the zoo. Guests gathered at the Village Picnic Pavilion for lunch and were welcomed by alumnus Phil Petraglia ’83, member of the Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee. After lunch, Courtney Kremer ’07, zoo docent, brought Bernie the Guinea Pig, a previous resident of the Westminster biology department, and a blue-tongued skunk for alumni and their guests to enjoy. Thank you, also, to Student Alumni Association students Kelly Corbin ’08, Rhiannon Mondale ’08, Jenn Ramsey ’07, and Bridget Roth ’08 for assisting with the day. The rest of the afternoon was enjoyed touring the zoo.

July 3 – New Wilmington
Twenty-nine alumni and guests enjoyed fellowship and Independence Day spirit at a “Welcome to our Backyard” gathering at Wiley Alumni House before the annual Westminster Independence Day celebration on Westminster’s campus. The doors of the Wiley Alumni House are open to alumni whenever they return to campus.

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

Cindy Dafler ’03 has been a member of the Westminster College staff since 1991.
For information about an upcoming regional event or if you are interested in hosting an event in your area, contact Cindy at 724-946-7373 or daflercs@westminster.edu.
Alumni host Westminster Welcome Open Houses for Class of 2011

Two alumni-hosted Westminster Welcome Open Houses were held to welcome members of the Class of 2011. Both alumni host couples enjoyed opening their homes to meet new Westminster students and their parents. Also on hand to help greet guests were alumni, faculty representatives, and current students.

**July 22 – Pittsburgh**

More than 30 new Pittsburgh-area Westminster students and their parents gathered at a Westminster Welcome Open House hosted by Peter ’76 and Susan **Suomi Herchenroether** ’77. Also attending were Dr. David **Twining**, associate professor in the Department of Religion, History, Philosophy & Classics; alumnus Philip **Petraglia** ’83 and wife, Ginny; current students Mandie **Zoller** ’08 and Alex **Hines** ’08; and director of alumni programming and planning, Biz **Ellis** Hines ’70.

“It is great fun to host a reception for incoming freshmen. They are so excited about becoming Westminster students and enjoy meeting others in their class before orientation,” said the Herchenroethers. “Having upper class students and recent alumni helps to share the ‘Titan Spirit’ at the event.”

Last year, Peter and Susan also opened their home for the Class of 2010. Because it was a wonderful opportunity to meet the new students and their parents, they volunteered to do so again this year and are on the calendar to host in the summer of 2008.

**July 29 – Meridian**

An enjoyable Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Westminster Welcome Open House was held at the home of alumni hosts Glenn ’68 and Linda **Stephenson Thompson** ’70 near Butler. A group of 30 students and parents were welcomed by the Thompsons, as well as Dr. David **Swerdlow**, professor of English; alumna Melissa **Wiley** ’00; current student Brandi **Weigand** ’09; and Biz **Ellis** Hines ’70.

This was the first time the Thompsons hosted an open house for incoming students, and they felt it was a great opportunity to have incoming freshmen meet fellow students and other alumni and to share experiences.

“It was a pleasure to host incoming freshmen and give them an opportunity to meet fellow students,” said the Thompsons. “With current students, recent alums, campus staff, and a professor on hand, the event provided a chance for the freshmen to ask questions and make connections before the school year even began.” The Thompsons have already volunteered to open their home for a gathering in the summer of 2008.

If you are interested in hosting an alumni-new or prospective student Welcome Open House in your area in the summer of 2008, please contact Cindy Dafler, coordinator of advancement events, at (724) 946-7373 or daflercs@westminster.edu.

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**Tree of Wisdom**

Frank Holub ’46 and his daughter, Toni, returned to campus this summer. They presented Westminster with the Tree of Wisdom art piece now installed by the entrance to Wallace Memorial Chapel in memory of Holub’s wife, Billie Jean Seal Holub ’46.

Visit [www.westminster.edu/weekly](http://www.westminster.edu/weekly) for weekly Westminster updates.
If you know an alum who would enjoy the opportunity to be involved with the Alumni Council, Board of Trustees, or is deserving of a Westminster College Alumni Citation let us know. A nomination form is available online www.westminster.edu/wcalumni or contact Mary Cooley James ’84, director of alumni relations, mjames@westminster.edu or (724) 946-7363. Here are some ways to get involved or recognize fellow alumni.

**Alumni Representatives to the Board of Trustees**
Each year, two alumni are selected to serve four-year terms as members of the Board of Trustees. Alumni representatives to the Board are selected by the Alumni Council from a pool of nominations submitted by alumni.

**Alumni Council Representatives**
All graduates of Westminster College are members of the Alumni Association. Providing direction for alumni activities and serving as a communications conduit between the College and alumni, the Alumni Council provides leadership for the association. Each year, three representatives are selected to serve four-year terms on the council.

**Westminster College Alumni Citations**
Do you know someone who graduated from Westminster and has achieved significant accomplishments in his or her profession, or made meaningful contributions to a community or to Westminster? These contributions and accomplishments may be visible and high-profile, or behind-the-scenes efforts.

**Outstanding Young Alumni Award**
This is a new opportunity to recognize alumni of 15 years or less, who are making a significant contribution as they build careers, serve their community or Westminster.

**Alumni Web Connections**
Can’t make it back to campus but in need of a new Westminster hat, hoodie or T-shirt? The Titan Gift Shop is online. www.westminster.edu/bookstore

Looking for homecoming, reunion, regional event and other alumni activity information, check out the alumni relations section of the Westminster Web page. www.westminster.edu/wcalumni

Support the Westminster Fund with “one click” giving. http://www.westminster.edu/alumni/online_giving.cfm

Westminster news, Titan sports updates, campus calendar and more. www.westminster.edu/athletics

**WestminsterConnect**
A virtual meeting place for all Westminster alumni, WestminsterConnect is free, secure, packed with great features, easy to use and will be available soon for you.

With WestminsterConnect you will be able to UPDATE, COMMUNICATE, NETWORK and CONNECT.

- Create your own secure personal profile
- Post class notes
- Create photo albums and add photos
- Search the Westminster Alumni Directory
- Keep in touch with friends & classmates
- Send instant notes to others
- Join the Career Resource Network
- Find alumni professionals in your field
- Get the latest Westminster news
- Register for Westminster events
- Support Westminster with online giving
- Join online message boards and groups

For more information about Westminster Connect email echines@westminster.edu or phone 724-946-7369.
There was a time not long ago when Dr. Terri Lenox had a rather jaded view of society. She saw a lot of hurt in a world and not much compassion. She just wasn’t feeling the love.

“The plight of the world, the problems of this nation, the struggles facing individuals in our communities saddened me,” she wrote in an editorial in the student newspaper The Holcad. “Then, I read articles in The Holcad scolding our students for not caring. Inspirational readings left me uninspired.”

Then Lenox, associate professor of computer science, discovered service-learning. Or rather, service-learning found her.

Fate intervened at just the right time when, in 2005, Lenox was asked to be part of a newly-formed Civic Engagement Task Force (CETF), a campus group charged with exploring civic engagement opportunities on campus.

What she discovered in her new role is that civic engagement and public concern were not absent from the Westminster campus. There were a wide range of activities already happening right beneath her nose. Her bleak outlook began to improve.

She found solace, she said, in learning that there were many people on campus devoted to making a real difference.

“It introduced me to a wide range of civic engagement activities that were already in place,” said Lenox. Faculty, staff and students alike were involved in projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Relay for Life, and Circle K.

CETF surveyed faculty about their courses and found that, despite the fact that the College no longer required a community service element for graduation, some classes contained organized service-learning activities.

The Service-Learning Teaching Circle was soon established and the Drinko Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning agreed to sponsor the Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, which Lenox now coordinates. Faculty members who incorporated service-learning components or were interested in doing so were invited to join the fellows program.

But what exactly is service-learning?
It’s not a new concept. Some have called it experiential learning, others community service. But as former Sen. John Glenn so aptly put it: “Service-learning is education in action.”

On paper, it’s a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity for further understanding of course content, broader appreciation of the discipline and enhanced sense of values and civic responsibility.

Boil that down, and in general terms, it’s a chance for students to get hands-on experience in a particular field and help the community at the same time. Education in action – and it’s alive and well on the Westminster campus.

Last year, 10 faculty members incorporated structured service-learning components into their courses. Students found service-learning opportunities in the likely classes – public relations’ Experiential Studies Projects and the core first-year course Inquiry, as well as the unlikely such as an Opera Workshop course.

In the education course Reading in the Content Area, students participated in the College/High School Interactive Literacy Program (CHIP). CHIP fostered collaboration between students in urban ninth-grade social studies classes and Westminster students. They worked together to enhance learning through reading and writing.

Students enrolled in an advanced laboratory chemistry course last year were sent into the nearby countryside to test abandoned mine drainage sites. By using their knowledge, students were able to study water samples from local streams and rivers. Their data and other findings were presented to the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, an area non-profit organization.

Lenox’s courses, Systems Analysis and Software Engineering, enabled students to design and build a Web site for Lawrence County Community Action Partnership, an organization aimed at reducing poverty in Lawrence County.

Dr. Anne Bentz’ Opera Workshop took students out of the rehearsal room and into the community. Students were able to practice their performance techniques, learn more about different audiences, and develop an understanding of the marketing aspects of opera. Performance venues included a nursing home and a preschool.

Students in the Speaking Hispanic Cluster – a marriage between Dr. David Swerdlow’s Hispanic American Literature course and Milagros Swerdlow’s intermediate Spanish class – tutored Hispanic-American high school students from the Campbell (Ohio) Memorial School District. Westminster students strengthened their language skills while befriending

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It makes sense to work on a real project with real problems that will actually be used.

– Dr. Terri Lenox

– and ultimately developing an understanding and appreciation of – these students.

So far, service-learning has been labeled a success and six courses – Reading for Exceptional Children, Communication on the Web, Christian Education Administration, Literacy and Community, Business and Professional Communication, and Introduction to Public Communications – are being offered this year with service-learning components.

“It makes sense to work on a real project with real problems that will actually be used,” said Lenox.

“Students really see a connection between their coursework and their civic situations,” said Dr. Virginia Tomlinson, director of the Drinko Center. “Becoming civically engaged – that’s what we want our students to achieve.”

Faculty members also see the benefits of incorporating service-learning into the curriculum, Lenox added.

“I can’t speak for all faculty, but one of the most basic benefits of service-learning is that it helps my students to learn,” Lenox said. “In order to learn, students must be motivated and I’ve found that having a real project with a real client can be tremendously motivating for my students and me.

“Additionally, service-learning projects give my students more people to learn from – my community partners have a great deal of knowledge and experience to share with my students. And another benefit for me and my students is the satisfaction of helping our community partners.”

These days Lenox walks across campus with a spring in her step and a smile on her face, and it’s evident she’s got a much brighter outlook on the world.

“It’s encouraging to see faculty, staff, students and our community partners working together to make the world a better place,” she said. “We can use our skills and knowledge for good, not evil.”

Integrating community service into the curriculum, Tomlinson added, is also addressing part of the Drinko Center’s mission of enriching the education of our students.

“Service-learning is definitely expanding and enhancing the classroom experiences of our undergraduates,” she said. “It’s one of the best things that we’ve done.”

(Hildebrand is editor of Westminster Magazine.)
Last spring, Rachel was enrolled in the Speaking Spanish cluster, which combined an intermediate level Spanish course and Hispanic American literature class. Led by Dr. David Swerdlow, professor of English, and Mitagros Swerdlow, lecturer in Spanish, students in this cluster tutored Hispanic American students from Campbell Memorial High School in Campbell, Ohio.

**What did you hope to gain from the experience?**

I wasn’t aware of the service-learning element before taking the cluster, but as soon as the Swerdlows told us about it I got really excited. I loved the idea of interacting with students by helping with homework and learning Spanish at the same time. I definitely hoped that the experience would help my oral communication in Spanish, while getting to know a Hispanic American student. I hoped that I could possibly be of some help to students facing the academic pressures of high school.

**What were some of the high points?**

Every Wednesday we traveled to the high school to meet with the student we had been paired with for the semester. At first, we just spent a little time getting to know each other so that we would feel comfortable working and talking together. I tried to talk in Spanish with my student and she helped by talking back to me. After practicing Spanish and talking about our lives, we focused on what the student needed academically. For example, my student was struggling to pass the OGTs (Ohio Graduation Test), which all Ohio students must pass to graduate. I spent much of the time helping with homework. To learn more about Puerto Rican American culture, we were given certain cultural questions to direct toward our students. For example, we asked them to describe their family traditions, and most of the students talked about a combination of American tradition and Puerto Rican tradition.

**What did you gain from the experience?**

It gave me the opportunity to take the Spanish I have learned in a classroom and put it in a real context, acknowledging the culture behind the language. I took away a better understanding of how valuable it is to learn about the cultural aspect of a language and I am now more aware of how Spanish can open doors, even here in the United States.

**What were some of the challenges you faced with this project?**

One of the challenges for our class was trying to bring out the Puerto Rican culture in the students. Normally, they were not given the opportunity to think about what it means to be a Puerto Rican American. We wanted to provide them the opportunity to embrace their cultural heritage during our time together. The students had different language preferences. Many of them had lived in the United States all of their lives and preferred to talk in English. Most of the students were relatively Americanized, but we were hoping to see how their cultural heritage influenced their lives as well. As you can imagine, it may have been strange for them to leave the typical American classroom and talk about Puerto Rican culture out of the blue. Yet, all of the students were really cooperative once they figured out that their heritage was something of interest to us. Once the students got used to the idea of talking about what it was like to be Puerto Rican American, they were more than happy to do it.

**What were some of the challenges you faced with this project?**

The high point of the experience for me was meeting the students. I felt like they had really important life stories because of growing up in America with a Puerto Rican background. I learned a lot from hearing about the struggles they had to overcome to get where they were. My student ended up passing her OGTs and I felt like our time together was beneficial for her plans about college and the future. I think this class of Puerto Rican students benefited just from knowing that Westminster College Spanish students cared about their stories and wanted them to succeed with their future lives as Puerto Rican Americans. Therefore, our service element was successful.

**Service-learning programs are not required, but would you recommend that students participate in one?**

Definitely. It provides an experience that you really can’t get in the typical classroom environment. It involves real life situations, which make any subject easier to learn about. It’s also really rewarding to give back to someone else as you learn, and to make a difference in someone else’s life.
Sophomore Claudia Brown enrolled in the Opera Workshop course, which took her out of the rehearsal room and into the community for a first-hand experience of performing for a variety of audiences.

**Q** Why did you choose the course? What did you hope to gain from it?

**A** I chose it as an elective, just for the fun of it. In Colloquium—a class that all music majors have together—a group of students who participated in the 2006 spring opera workshop performed some scenes. Their performances were hilarious and extremely entertaining. As soon as I saw those performances, I knew I wanted to sign up for opera the next semester.

**Q** How hands on was your course?

**A** It was really hands-on, actually. We were placed into small scenes from various operas such as *Magic Flute*, *Faust*, *Carmen*, and others. Some students had numerous scenes to sing in, and there were some scenes for a soloist or duet with all of us as the chorus in the background. We all researched our roles and wrote a paper on our characters. Then much of the workshop was spent learning our music before memorizing it. Once we memorized it, we blocked and staged it. Finally, we prepared our costumes and props.

**Q** How did the work you did in this class translate into service-learning?

**A** Aside from the actual opera workshop performance, every group was required to perform somewhere in the community, whether for a preschool class or a church, or anywhere else we wanted to perform. My group, the trio from Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, went to the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh to see the production. Before the performance, our group performed our scene in the lobby of the theater.

**Q** What did you enjoy most about this project?

**A** I particularly enjoyed performing in the lobby of the Benedum and then watching the full opera and seeing how our number really fit in the whole scheme of things. It was fascinating to see the Pittsburgh Opera performance of a scene we were doing, and to see how our performances were alike and different. Of course, the actual performance was my favorite point, because we only had one performance and all of our months of effort were channeled into one evening.

**Q** What did you gain from this service-learning experience?

**A** As a music educator, one of the most essential qualities to possess is versatility. I think that versatility and variety are focused on very acutely in the music education department, and rightly so. Every music education major has to learn every instrument. We get certification to teach kindergarten through 12th grade. We have to be ready for anything, whether it’s instrumental or choral. Versatility is the key. Opera is just one of the many ways in which the music education students can expand their horizons and push their comfort boundaries.

**Q** What are your career aspirations?

**A** I plan to attend graduate school for music education and/or sacred music and get a Ph.D. in either or both. Hopefully I will teach. Ideally, I intend to teach during the week and work at a church on the weekends. My ultimate goal is to explore the relationship between music and missions and to utilize that unique relationship.

**Q** Service-learning courses are not required, but would you recommend that students register for one?

**A** I would recommend it, and recommend that they consider the opportunity, or even obligation, they have to give back. Especially with something like opera, or any sort of performance, sharing it is actually part of the process. It’s silly to prepare a show up to performance level and then not perform it. It can be the same with all kinds of knowledge.
Christopher Dymond and Will Maxwell, both members of the computer science cluster, assisted in the development of a Web site for Lawrence County Community Action Partnership (LCCAP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty in Lawrence County.

Christopher Dymond

Class year: Senior  
Major: Computer Information Systems  
Hometown: Clearfield

William Maxwell

Class year: Senior  
Major: Computer Information Systems  
Hometown: Plain Grove

**Q** Did you choose the course for its Service Learning element?

**A**

CD: Yes. I was hoping to gain experience working with a real company outside of our campus. I knew that it would be a good way to learn working on a project that would actually be used by someone, as opposed to the usual projects we do in a class that are only graded by a professor.

WM: I chose the course mainly because it is a requirement for my major. I did gain a valuable piece of experience, though; I got to see what working with a group of people is going to be like because, more than likely, I am going to be working with teams of people in my career.

**Q** How does building a Web site translate into service-learning?

**A**

CD: Because our project was done for the nonprofit organization LCCAP it was considered service-learning. The company was looking to have their Web site updated to be more navigable and appealing for themselves, users, and potential donors.

WM: It translates into service-learning because if you break down the phrase you get “service,” which we helped the LCCAP get in better touch with its clients, and then you have “learning,” which we did plenty of that throughout the semester.

**Q** How hands-on was your experience? What exactly did you do?

**A**

CD: We spent most of the first semester gathering information from LCCAP in order to understand their needs and their desires for a Web site upgrade. We met with a group of employees and their network administrator once we had developed a proposal and a few potential prototypes. The second semester we spent building the site. While still working out some details with LCCAP, we were able to build the site in our lab running it from a server we had set up to host the site. We were able to finish the site with a few minor changes to our proposed prototype and delivered it to LCCAP ourselves.

WM: The main challenge we had was getting our database up and running.

**Q** What were some of the challenges you faced with this project?

**A**

CD: A major challenge we face when beginning to build the site was deciding on a language to program in. Also initially we were not sure how we would be able to link the pages together.

WM: The high points for me were two: When we first presented our proposal at the end of the first class all we got was good feedback, and at the end of the second class when we handed off the final Web site to them.

**Q** What were some of the high points?

**A**

CD: It was very fulfilling to be able to finish this project and hand it not to a professor, but to an actual company that would be putting it to good use.

WM: The high points for me were two: When we first presented our proposal at the end of the first class all we got was good feedback, and at the end of the second class when we handed off the final Web site to them.

**Q** As a CIS major, what did you take away from it?

**A**

CD: It was all very relevant to my major. Learning to adapt to a new language and work with a group on a long term project was an experience that you don’t get in a regular course.

WM: What I took away from this is an appreciation for every single classmate I worked with because without them this project would not have gotten done.

**Q** Service-learning is a key component to Westminster’s mission statement. Would you agree that service-learning programs address the mission?

**A**

CD: Yes—I believe that they are one of the best ways to address our mission. Working in a rapidly changing world while still being a student and under the guidance of a professor was one of the most meaningful classes I’ve taken at Westminster.
Hope Latiak is literally a world away from her home in Ohio.

Last December, the 1998 Westminster alumna completed a master’s degree in education at Cleveland State University, specializing in community agency counseling, which included a year counseling college students. Today, she is one of over 100 Peace Corps volunteers serving in Uganda.

“The Peace Corps has always been something that I wanted to do,” she said. “I have always enjoyed my volunteer experiences, which really started at Westminster when I volunteered with Habitat [for Humanity] and did class-related volunteer work at a homeless shelter and an AIDS hospital.

“The Peace Corps seemed like a great opportunity to take it to the next level in terms of work opportunities, location and length of time. I’ve heard such great things about the Peace Corps experience and wanted to come to Africa, so it seemed like a good way to do that.”

Hope arrived in Africa as one of a group of 50 volunteers. Three days of Peace Corps orientation in the States was followed by 10 weeks in-country training that included cultural, language and job training, as well as a homestay. Although she was trained as an economic development volunteer and others were trained as education or community health volunteers, “all three are very [closely] related, so most volunteers end up working in all three areas.” Members of the group trained together but are now scattered all over the country.

Hope’s training as an economic development volunteer was in small business and income generation activities to alleviate poverty. She was paired with Community and Home Initiatives for Long-term Development (CHILD), a community development organization that does work in HIV/AIDS, health and economic development areas. Training coworkers in organizational management and program development skills is a large part of her job.

In the village where she lives, she works with Madak Integrated Community and Home Initiative (MICHI), helping raise money for an agricultural development project to assist the women who are struggling to raise their families and the many orphans in the village. The program will provide chickens and cows so the women can generate income from the sale of eggs, milk, and the animals themselves. “I am trying to help them build up their small businesses so they have enough money to cover the basic necessities and school fees for the children.”

A secondary project that keeps Hope busy is working with the Hole in the Wall Camps of Paul Newman’s Foundation. Just as the foundation provides camps for terminally ill children in the U.S., they are now taking the project worldwide, with the first international camp for children with HIV/AIDS in Uganda planned for January. Hope is the camp coordinator and is helping design the psycho-social interventions for the campers. In that capacity, she is working closely with the Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinic at Mulago Hospital.

Lest you think Hope has any time to eat and sleep—forget any free time—she is helping raise funds for an orphanage operated by the Good Samaritan Sisters of Uganda. The facility houses 35 orphans rescued from the streets of Kampala, and is called, appropriately, Home of Hope.

~ By Sandra E. Chandler
Aug. 24 marked the arrival of Westminster’s newest family members: the Class of 2011. More than 330 new students descended upon campus – mini-fridges and microwaves in tow – and were greeted by nearly 75 tie-dye wearing Fresh Start upperclassmen and a number of football players to assist with moving into the residence halls.

After move-in and a quick bite to eat, the annual Opening Convocation was held in Orr Auditorium. Westminster President R. Thomas Williamson and Carsen H. Nesbitt, president of the Student Government Association and senior political science major from Albion, N.Y., offered greetings to students and their families.

Dr. Barbara T. Faires, professor of mathematics, provided the keynote address. A mathematician, Faires explained the relevance of the figure of their class year: 2011, Faires said, is a prime number. And prime, she explained, represents the first in time, first in rank, and having the highest quality.

**Our newest students**

- Total enrolled: 333 (first-year and transfers)
- First-year students: 315
- Transfer students: 18
- Sex: 186 female, 147 male
- Average age: 18
- Average high school GPA: 3.4
- Number of states represented: 11
- Percentage of ranked students (89%) in the top 10% of high school class: 14%
- Recruited high school athletes: 132

**Top 5 majors for new students:**
- Elementary education (56); biology (33); business administration (33); English (17); broadcast communication (14); history (14); mathematics (13).
Therefore, Faires reasoned, the members of the class of 2011 must be of the highest quality and value.

The Westminster Brass Ensemble presented music under the direction of Dr. R. Tad Greig, assistant professor of music. College organist Kathryn D. Miller provided processional and recessional music. The alma mater was led by Jason A. Perry, senior music education major from Shippenville.

Following the convocation and the traditional walking through the gauntlet, a reception was held for parents, students, faculty, administration and staff in the McKelvey Campus Center.

A look at the Class of 2011

Most of this year’s first-year students were born in 1989 and have very different cultural touchstones than their parents. Here is a look at some identifying points associated with students from this new era:

- They never “rolled down” a car window.
- They may confuse the Keating Five with a rock group.
- They have grown up with bottled water.
- Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa.
- Pete Rose has never played baseball.
- “Off the hook” has never had anything to do with a telephone.
- Russia has always had a multi-party political system.
- Classmates could include Michelle Wie, Jordin Sparks, and Bart Simpson.
- U2 has always been more than a spy plane.
- They were introduced to Jack Nicholson as “The Joker.”
- Stadiums, rock tours and sporting events have always had corporate names.
- Fox has always been a major network.
- Being a latchkey kid has never been a big deal.
- They learned about JFK from Oliver Stone and Malcolm X from Spike Lee.
- Most phone calls have never been private.
- High definition television has always been available.
- Smoking has never been allowed in public spaces in France.
- Tiananmen Square is a 2008 Olympics venue, not the scene of a massacre.
- The purchase of ivory has always been banned.
- MTV has never featured music videos.
- The space program has never really caught their attention except in disasters.
- They get much more information from Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert than from the newspaper.
- They never saw Johnny Carson live on television.
- They have no idea who Rusty Jones was or why he said “goodbye to rusty cars.”
- Avatars have nothing to do with Hindu deities.
- Burma has always been Myanmar.
- Food packaging has always included nutritional labeling.
- The World Wide Web has been an online tool since they were born.

~ Taken from Beloit College’s Mindset List for the Class of 2011
42 Betty Schucha
Zinman was honored by Haifa University of Israel. She has completed her sixth year as a Foundation Board member at Florida Atlantic University, where she served as chair and was elected an emerita member. She lives in Boca Raton, Fla.

50 Arthur Volmrich, a jeweler in Lake Placid, N.Y., has been in more than 50 stage productions, including Oliver! and Kiss Me, Kate.

60 Donald Mitchell, professor emeritus of chemistry and founder of Science in Motion, received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Haifa University of Israel.

64 Anthony Singe was recognized as Superintendent of the Year by the University of Connecticut Alumni Association. He retired from Locust Valley (N.Y.) schools after 42 years, 24 of which he served as superintendent. He now serves as an educational consultant and is volunteering with Rotary and the Boys and Girls Club. He and his wife, Ninett, live in Bayville, N.Y.

66 Daniel Fink retired as a teacher and guidance counselor in the Austintown (Ohio) Local Schools. He has relocated to Southport, N.C., with his wife, Charen.

Lee Hite, president and CEO of The Hite Company in Altoona, received the 2007 Arthur W. Hooper Award from the National Association of Electrical Distributors.

68 Preston Pierce was appointed regional archivist at the Rochester (N.Y.) Regional Library Council. The Council is one of nine research and reference library service agencies throughout the state that help locate, organize and make available the state’s historical records.

69 Bill Daugherty is an assistant professor at Kent State University. His wife, Milann Ruff Daugherty, retired after 16 years teaching at the New Castle Christian Academy. They have relocated to Silver Lake, Ohio.

72 Casey Norton is director of bio-fuels technologies with Louisville Dryer Co., a fuel ethanol production firm. Casey and his wife, Joni, reside in Taylor Ridge, Ill.

Lois Walker Slater retired as a merchandising representative with Epson. She and her husband, Garry, make their home in Bear, Del.

73 Valerie Beck Becker is a teacher for the Netcong (N.J.) Board of Education. Her husband, Robert Becker ’74, is a superintendent for the Dover Board of Education. The couple lives in Sparta, N.J.

Timothy Bosse is manager of residential service with Mon Yough Community Services. Tim and his wife, Ramona, live in Pittsburgh.

Mary Radu is a midlife career and lifestyle coach at Pathmaker Coaching. She and her husband, Rich Auger, make their home in St. Helena, Calif.

76 Susan Buesing Amerman is a teacher at Mustard Seed Child Care Center. She lives in Hopatcong, N.J., with her husband, Peter.

78 Jerry Delo was promoted to manager for the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.

Bruce Haldeman is president of Bruce R. Haldeman & Associates, LLC, an insurance and financial planning firm. He and his wife, Rita, live in Monroeville.

Joe Taylor is managing partner with DCI Business Consulting in Moon Township.

Marybeth Kovac Bianchi was promoted to manager of institutional publications in the new marketing and communications unit at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She and her husband, Eli, live in Wilmington.

Cindy Thomas Breen, owner of Atlas Printing Co., received the Greater Johnstown YWCA’s Tribute to Women, Professions category. She teaches dance for adults with special needs at the Laurel Arts Dance Center. She lives in Somerset with her husband, Dave, and three children.

80 Cathleen Jones received a doctorate in information systems and communications from Robert Morris University, where she is director of the study abroad program.

Susan Kuhn Howden is an occupational therapist at Provider Advantage Rehab. She lives in Mandeville, La., with her husband, Stephan, and two children.

82 Thomas Burt is vice president of Modular Group, an office technology firm. His wife, Stephanie Skarlis Burt ’84, is an elementary teacher. Tom, Stephanie and their two children reside in Orange Park, Fla.

Mary Creese Edwards is a senior executive with Accenture, a consulting firm. She lives in Sewickley with her husband, Mark Edwards, an attorney, and their two children.
Merl Galusha is a senior instructor with CA Inc., a software development firm. Chip and his wife, Michelle, make their home in Farmville, N.C.

Janet Pride Mills is a Creative Memories consultant. Her husband, Dr. Stephen Mills ’81, is on the faculty in the family practice residency program at Excela Health-Latrobe. Jan, Steve, and their family live in Latrobe.

Ann Saul Dudurich is a freelance writer. She and her husband, Michael, live in Greensburg.

Kevin Thomson is a CPA with Richard K. Mellon and Sons, a management company in Ligonier. He lives in Derry with his wife, Carole.

Raymond Bleakney Jr. was promoted to sales manager at Xerox, Buerger Office Systems. He lives in Indiana with his wife, Marcia, and their two sons.

Linda Scott Musante was promoted to director, innovation development group at Cardinal Brands Inc. She lives in Lawrence, Kan., with her husband, Lou, and two children.

John Klein of Sagamore Hills, Ohio, is a senior life sciences consultant with Business Edge Solutions, working with pharmaceutical companies to implement technology to streamline their clinical trial processes.

Kate McConnell was one of three artists featured at a new gallery in Washington, D.C. A graphic designer, she is adjunct faculty at the Corcoran College, School of the Arts.

Cheryl Gibson Headland is a receptionist at Pediatric Associates of Warren. She lives in Warren, Ohio, with her husband, William, and their three children.


Nicholette Koller was promoted to controller at Telarc International, a multi-Grammy-winning record label in Cleveland.

Lori Quindlen Ruffner is a financial consultant with Duncan Financial Group. She and her two daughters live in North Huntington.

Mark Arriola has celebrated his 20th season as an ice hockey official, working at the college, high school and youth level throughout Minnesota. He resides in Eagan, Minn., and is the technical service engineer for 3M’s Drug Delivery System Division, a supplier of materials for transdermal drug patches.

David Boyle was named president and CEO of National City Bank in Michigan. He and his wife, Deborah Berlin Boyle, and their four children live in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Cynthia Griffin Monks is a customer relations specialist with Armstrong Cable. She lives in Butler with her two daughters.

Elizabeth Pfrogener was promoted to senior supply chain management personnel at IBM. She received the U.S. Jaycees’ John H. Armbuster Memorial Award, presented annually to members who continue to show support, dedication and enthusiasm following their first year of membership.

Laurie Sproul is dean of students at Pendergast Elementary School. She lives in Phoenix with her two daughters.

Want your news published?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines:
Class Notes printed in this issue were received prior to March 9, 2007. Because Westminster Magazine is a quarterly publication requiring significant lead time, please allow at least two months before your news is published. Class Notes received prior to June 29, 2007, will appear in the Fall 2007 issue.
Amy Gionta Simpson is a teacher at Van R. Butler Elementary School. She and her husband, Scott, and three children live in Miramar Beach, Fla.

Kent McConnell earned his Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of Virginia. He is on the faculty at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Jennifer Bestwick Rash is volunteer coordinator for Brethren Housing Association, a two-year transitional housing program for homeless women with children. She lives in Harrisburg with her husband, Andy, and their son.

Elizabeth Fontaine Hildebrand is director of publications at Westminster College. Betsy and her husband, Nick, reside in Greenville with their two children.

Maggie Stevens is the estimator in the Rail Products Division of L.B. Foster Company. She lives in North Fayette Township with her two sons.

John Stout of Atlanta is national products sales manager for L.B. Foster Company.

Laura Luckmeier Valentine earned her MBA from Berry College. She and her husband, William, and two sons make their home in Shannon, Ga.

Jim Goske, an elementary school principal in the Boardman (Ohio) Local Schools, is the new head varsity basketball coach at the high school. He and his wife, Marlis Paroz Goske ’94, reside in Boardman.

Edward Grimenstein earned his doctorate in homiletics from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. He and his family live in Stedman, N.C.

Lynette Jacobs-Pribe completed her Ph.D. in community research and action at Vanderbilt University and accepted a position as assistant professor in the psychology department at Bluffton University. She and her husband, Eric, have relocated to Ohio.

The Rev. Jeffrey Moore is senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Aurora, Ill., where he lives with his wife, Stephanie Portillo Moore, and their three children.

Maj. Frank Samarin is serving a dermatology residency at Yale University. He lives in Naugatuck, Conn., with his wife, Amy Sheliga Samarin, and their two children.

John Cress, a project coordinator with Comcast Cable, is pursuing a master’s in special education at Carlow College. He and his wife, Shannon, make their home in Pittsburgh.

Elizabeth Deegan DeLauter is self-employed designing children’s rooms. Beth lives in Marysville, Ohio, with her husband, David, and their three children.

Carrie Jarvis Boyer earned her master’s from Grand Canyon University and is a literacy coordinator with the Youngstown City Schools. She lives in Boardman, Ohio, with her husband, Keith.

Trish Phipps has relocated to Youngstown, Ohio, and is employed at Thomas Steel Strip, a specialty strip steel manufacturer. She is enrolled in the MBA program at Youngstown State University.

Denny Wolfe was promoted to feature producer at ESPN in Bristol, Conn., and won his third national sports Emmy for his work on ESPN’s “Sunday NFL Countdown.” (See also Marriages and New Additions)

Steffany Baustert McCafferty is manager, automotive dealer services with Carbis Walker and Associates, an accounting firm. She lives in Cranberry Township with her husband, Rob, and their two daughters.

Jennifer Bronder has moved to Tarentum. She is an English and theatre teacher in the South Butler County School District.

Erin Brownbeck earned her master’s in rhetoric from Carnegie Mellon University and is managing editor of the Valley Social magazine.

Michael Deegan is associate director of admissions at Hood College. He and his wife, Judith, and two sons live in Frederick, Md.

Scott Krankowski is an electrician with Kiffer Industries. He lives in Cleveland with his wife, Jennifer.

Laura Remaley McCormick earned her master’s in education from Youngstown State University. She is a thesis editor and is pursuing her Ph.D. in psychology at Walden University. She lives in New Castle with her husband, Patrick.

Melissa Ruefle earned her law degree from Duquesne School of Law and is an attorney with Caroselli Beachler McTiernan in Pittsburgh.

Tiffany Sander McKenzie was an event coordinator and recruiter for the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Oakmont Country Club.

Rebecca Vereb Eng completed her Ph.D. in school psychology at Lehigh University and is a school psychologist in the Howard County Public Schools. She lives in Laurel, Md., with her husband, Bill.

Alecia Allison is a corporate paralegal with Reed Smith LLP in Pittsburgh.

Laurie Chamberlin Berry received her MBA from Villanova University. (See also New Additions)

Erin Murray is a city research scientist for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Larry Mumford earned an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh’s Katz Graduate School of Business and accepted a position as project manager with Mellon Financial Corporation. He lives in Wexford.

Andrew Parshall earned a master of education degree from the University of Florida and is employed by the Moon Area School District. He lives in Hopewell Township with his wife, Allison McCormick Parshall ’02.
Matthew Saxton of Taneytown, Md., is a copy editor for the Frederick News-Post.

01 Keith Dryburgh of Hilliard, Ohio, received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He is in practice in the Columbus area.

Meghan Duda Corbin completed the master’s program in organizational leadership at Mercyhurst College and received the Dr. Barrett Walker Thesis of the Year Award. She serves as adjunct faculty at the Mercyhurst College Walker School of Business, as an instructor for the Manufacturers’ Association of Northwest Pennsylvania, and executive director of the Erie County Republican Party. She lives in Erie with her husband, Ben, and their two children. (See also New Additions)

Loretta Grate Bolyard is a graduate student in clinical psychology and neuroscience at the University of Montana.

02 Lauren Barber of Butler is attending the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical School.

Zach Beresh is senior designer for Matthew James Creative, an advertising agency. He lives on Mount Washington in Pittsburgh with his wife, Kara Benedict Beresh ’00.

Lindsay Braem was promoted to senior account executive at Blattner Brunner Inc. in Pittsburgh.

Kelly Coldren is a clinical supervisor at SPHS Behavioral, a drug and alcohol facility. She resides in Monroeville.

Sarah Lohr of Bellevue was promoted to assistant director of class programs in the office of alumni relations at Carnegie Mellon University.

Sarah Malanowsky Barbour is a billing supervisor with Westmoreland Case Management and Supports Inc., a non-profit social service agency. She resides in Greensburg with her husband, George.

Anna Tielsch Goddard is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Child and Family Agency, a health clinic. She and her husband, Tim, reside in Waterford, Conn.

Corry Yeroukis earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree and is an associate doctor with a small animal general practice in Jacksonville, N.C.

03 Nevin Baker received a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is serving an internship in internal medicine at Geisinger Medical Center.

Joshua Caplinger of Ellwood City is a customer service representative with Verizon Wireless.

Tracy Gulling graduated from Lake Erie College of Medicine and is serving a general internship at the University of Connecticut.

Jennifer Hooks earned a master of education degree from Slippery Rock University and is a kindergarten teacher in the Center Area School District.

Liana Tallman is a third-grade teacher in the Prince William County Schools. She has relocated to Manassas, Va.

04 Feliz DeNu Hall is office manager for Buzz Seating Inc., a seating manufacturer. She and her husband, Bob, reside in Cincinnati.

Mark Gross is an eighth-grade math teacher in the Harford County (Md.) Public Schools and is pursuing a master’s degree in middle school mathematics at Notre Dame of Maryland. He resides in Abington, Md.

Jill Klobusnik moved to Fairfax, Va., where she is an intelligence analyst for Northrup Grumman Mission Systems.

Kevin Kresinski earned a master’s from Alvernia College. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Mars.

Stefanie Macaglia received a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction from Gannon University. She teaches third grade in the Moniteau School District.

Katherine Miller of Turtle Creek is a music teacher in the Woodland Hills School District.

Alicia Richie Quinn is director of public relations for the Pocono Mountains Visitor Bureau. She has relocated to White Haven with her husband, Matt.

Megan Welty graduated from St. Vincent College with a master’s in curriculum and instruction. She is an upper school Spanish teacher and assistant cross country coach at St. Mary’s Academy in Cherry Hills Village, Colo.

Devayani Wintrobe graduated from Bowling Green University with a master’s in college student personnel. She is director of student ministries at Grove City College.

05 Traci Campbell is a consumer banker with National City Bank in Hubbard, Ohio.

Matthew McClelland earned a master’s of library science from Clarion University. He is a library media specialist in the Altoona Area School District.

Emily Wagner is a special education teacher in the Culpeper County (Va.) schools.

06 Elizabeth Bacheson is an account coordinator at A to Z Communications Inc. in Pittsburgh.

Sarabeth Hall is a graphic designer at Trib Total Media-Pittsburgh Pennysaver. She has moved to Saxenburg.

Nicole Kress Dericks is a substitute teacher in the Holmdel School District. She and her husband, Chris, make their home in Hazlet, N.J.

Maggie Muir is a high school Spanish teacher in the State College Area School District.

Lindsay Painter of Apollo is director of sales and marketing with IntegraCare, an assisted living corporation.
Lauren Scheller of Wilton, Conn., is a finance assistant at Cannondale Associates.

07 Lisa Colatruglio of Monaca is a nursing student.

Colin Dean is in graduate school at Robert Morris University.

Courtney Gilmore is a programmer at Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc. in Pittsburgh.

Allison Henley is a music teacher in the North East School District.

Jessica Hinz is a counselor at Cannondale, a residential facility for girls in Erie.

Katie Meadows is a medical student at Penn State College of Medicine.

Emily Morningstar is a fifth-grade teacher at Red Mill Elementary School in Etters.

Sherri Slafka is the sales and marketing coordinator at Steelcoast Creative in Pittsburgh. She facilitates new development, lends strategic planning in public relations and assists in project management.

Emily Wall is employed at Southwood Psychiatric Hospital in Pittsburgh.

WEDDINGS


Suzette Golden and Karl Tasik, Sept. 23, 2006, at Holy Trinity Parish in Ligonier. Suzette is a tax analyst for Sodexo Inc. The couple resides in Hagerstown, Md.

95 Sarah Wolff and Todd Romero, June 16, 2006, in Boston. Sarah is a relocation and language manager with SF Language Services Inc. The couple resides in Houston, Texas.

97 Denny Wolfe and Janey Rooney, Sept. 24, 2005, in Milton, Mass. Alumni participating included Rob Galbraith ’96 and Ted Haynes ’99, and more than a dozen alumni attended. (See also Class Notes and New Additions.)


03 Thomas Benjamin and Nicole Rodney, June 10, 2006. Thomas is a graduate student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The couple resides in New Wilmington.

Zachary Wynkoop and Jaqueline Barrows, July 1, 2006, at St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco, Lower Burrell. Alumni participating in the wedding included bridesmaids Heather Kink and Gwen Kennedy; best man David Eberle ’05; and groomsmen Tom Oyer ’05 and Andrew Hustin. Nicole is a mathematics teacher and Christopher is a graduate student at Indiana State University. The couple resides in Sullivan, Ind.

04 Daniela DiRupo and Keith Covert Jr., Sept. 9, 2006, at St. Anthony’s Church in Sharon. Alumnae in the wedding party included Elisa Suber Smith and Veronica Porterfield ’02. Daniela works in patient finance at Sharon Regional Health System. The couple resides in Hermitage.

Nicole Potochak and Christopher Medjesky ’05, June 10, 2006, at St. Margaret Mary’s Church in Lower Burrell. Alumni participating in the wedding included bridesmaids Heather Kink and Gwen Kennedy; best man David Eberle ’05; and groomsmen Tom Oyer ’05 and Andrew Hustin. Nicole is a mathematics teacher and Christopher is a graduate student at Indiana State University. The couple resides in Sullivan, Ind.
80 Christine Vessely
Shaffer and her husband, John Shaffer ’77: a daughter, Linzi Ann, in November 2005. Christine is a college instructor at Kaplan University. The family resides in Newville.

89 Lori Hermann Breen and her husband, Joseph: a son, Preston, on May 18, 2006. He joins Ryan, 10, and Justin, 6, at home in Cheswick. Lori is the owner of Liberty Tax Service in Pittsburgh and is an adjunct faculty member in the business department at Community College of Allegheny County Boyce.


90 Lori Barnes Bowman and her husband, Pedro: a daughter, Aubrey, on Sept. 15, 2006. She joins Taylor, 14, and Sidney, 2, at home in Beaver Falls. Lori is a project manager for Alcoa.

Amy Kepple Kimmich and her husband, Kurt Kimmich ’89: a son, Benjamin Kurt, on May 3, 2007. He joins Maggie, 12, Katie, 9, Luke, 6, and Jake, 2.

91 Jim DeVita and his wife, Patty: a daughter, Gabrielle Elizabeth, on Jan. 11, 2007. Jim is a mortgage consultant for Omega Financial. The family resides in Indianaola.

Michelle Varner O’Shea and her husband, Patrick: a son, McGinnis, on Nov. 27, 2006. He joins Patrick, 10, Keegan, 7, Finnegan, 5, Sheallin, 3, and Delaney, 1, at home in Harmony.

92 Kathleen Kearns Kirschman and her husband, Michael Kirschman: a daughter, Hannah Gabrielle, on Jan. 24, 2007. She joins Sarah Danielle, 3, at home in Charlotte. Michael is a division director for the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department.

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

Virginia Hofer Fisher and her husband, Dan: a daughter, Susan Elizabeth, on March 5, 2007. The family lives in Dublin, Ohio.

Amy Luchn Riggio and her husband, Mark: a son, Jack Austin, on March 14, 2007.

He joins Hannah, 6, and Michael, 5, at home in New Freedom.


Amy Shannon Colbeck and her husband, Paul: a son, Davis Patrick, on Feb. 4, 2007. The family resides in Bay Village, Ohio.

94 Bess Godich Ondako and her husband, Larry Ondako ’93: twins, Samuel and Casey. They join Zoey, 4, at home in New Castle. Bess is an English teacher in the New Castle Area School District and Larry is head men’s basketball coach at Westminster College.

Joe Hirz and his wife, Teresa: a son, Karl Martin, on Jan. 5, 2007. He joins Rachel, 4, and Andrea, 2, at home in Fairfax, Va. Joe is a landscape designer and project manager for Great Falls Landscapes Inc.

95 Renee Miller Jones and her husband, Peter: a son, Hagen Squire, on Aug. 19, 2006. Renee is a claims specialist at Cigna Group Insurance. The family lives in Oakmont.

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Lisa Mack Friday and her husband, Michael: a son, Adam James, in 2005. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

Becky Reed Smaldone and her husband, Edward: a daughter, Isabella Mary, on Feb. 13, 2007. She joins Tayton Edward, 2, at home in Reidsville, NC. Becky is a teacher in Rockingham County.

Holly Richardson Collins and her husband, Brian: a son, Tyler Miles, on May 11, 2006. Holly is a sales representative for General Mills. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

96 Sheri Ganssle Sousa and her husband, Jorge: a daughter, Juliana Anna, on Feb. 28, 2007. She joins JonCarlos and Cristiano at home in Bethlehem. Sheri is an art teacher in the Allentown School District.

97 Thomas Ayres and his wife, Tiffany: a daughter, Isabella, in Nov. 2006. She joins Lily, 2, at home in Trumbull, Conn. Thomas is a broker/agent for The Russell Agency, LLC.


Michelle Cramer Hughes and her husband, Chris: a daughter, Haley Jean, on Sept. 20, 2006. She joins Thomas, 2, at home in Granby, Conn.
She joins Parker Allison, 2, at home in New Castle. Julie is a counselor with Lawrence County Drug and Alcohol.

99 Laurie Chamberlin
Berry and her husband, Matthew Berry ‘96: a daughter, Caitlin Marie, on Aug. 22, 2006. The family resides in Broomall. (See also Class Notes.)

Julie Kovatch Kessler and her husband, Zach: a daughter, Leah Catherine, on June 4, 2007. She joins Andrew, 2, at home in North Fayette.

Bill Lucas and his wife, Rebecca Eller: a son, Brady Alexander, on May 24, 2007. Bill is director of development for the Sam Adams Alliance. The family lives in Naperville, Ill.

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

Holly Drum Schrider and her husband, Roy: a daughter, Olivia Marie, on Nov. 2, 2006. Holly is manager of the nursing business office at Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh. The family lives in Tarentum.


Julie Zadroga Jendrysik and her husband, James: a daughter, Piper Grace, on May 21, 2007. Julie joins Parker Allison, 2, at home in New Castle. Julie is a counselor with Lawrence County Drug and Alcohol.

2007-2008
Celebrity Series Season

Saturday, March 15, 2008
THE LOWE FAMILY
Single Tickets: $30, $35 and $40
Sponsored by Sky Bank

Wednesday, December 12, 2007
MARIE OSMOND
“The Magic of Christmas”
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Tuesday, April 15, 2008
“EVITA”
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**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.


36 Lloyd T. Garrett of Hubbard, Ohio, May 22, 2007. He was a school administrator in North Allegheny Schools, Pittsburgh, for 25 years before retiring in 1979. He was also a high school basketball official for 25 years. Survivors include two sons; a daughter; a stepson; and a niece.

37 George H. Mitchell Jr. of York, May 5, 2007. A World War II veteran, Mr. Mitchell was a member of the Yorkshire United Methodist Church, where he had served as a trustee, head usher and church historian. He volunteered as a radio reader at the York County Blind Center for 23 years. Survivors include two daughters, including Carol Mitchell Ramaley ’73; a daughter-in-law; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

42 Robert Johns of Albuquerque, N.M., May 31, 2007. He entered the U.S. Navy and was commissioned as a pilot with Lighter-than-Air (LTA) and Heavier-than-Air (HTA) designations. After World War II, he earned a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He began his career in the field of higher education, and during the Eisenhower administration he was appointed director of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute. Later he served as president of the University of Montana in Missoula, Mont., and Sacramento State University in Sacramento, Calif. He later was named president and CEO of Servovation Inc., and was a director and consultant for Walter Darling Corp. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Virginia Wolfe Johns ’45; four children; and six grandchildren.

Robert M. McClurg of Skaneateles, N.Y., Jan. 20, 2007. While in college he attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated second lieutenant in the Marines with his naval wings. Selected to be a Navy fighter pilot, he and nine other students from Westminster were the first naval cadets to join the naval flight training at the time of Pearl Harbor. He became a carrier trained pilot and was sent to South Pacific theater of war as a fighter pilot. He became a member of the Black Sheep Squadron and participated in the Guadalcanal and Rabaul campaigns. As a fighter ace, he shot down seven enemy planes and received five Distinguished Crosses, seven Air Medals and two Presidential Unit Citations. His experiences are detailed in his memoir On Boyington’s Wing. Later he formed his own business as a manufacturers’ representative in the plumbing and heating field. He was a member of Park Central Presbyterian Church where he served as deacon and elder and taught Sunday school. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Julia; a son; a daughter; and eight grandchildren.

44 Joann Simpson Nicholson of Harbor City, Calif., April 1, 2007. She was a former reporter for the New Castle News before relocating to California. She had been employed at Harbor City College for 16 years. Survivors include two daughters.


47 The Rev. James R. Shott of Cocoa, Fla., March 10, 2007. Shott retired from the Presbyterian Church ministry and moved to Palm Bay, Fla., in 1980 where he began a writing career and published 16 books. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Esther; three daughters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

50 Bruce P. Wagner of Tallmadge, Ohio, April 27, 2007. While at Westminster, he was a four-year letterman and captain of the championship Titan basketball team for four years. He set a school record of 404 points as a senior and was inducted into the Titan Sports Hall of Fame in 1992. He spent 42 years with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Survivors include two daughters; a son; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two nieces; and one nephew.


58 Dr. Marsha Hicks Julian of Shaker Heights, Ohio, in June 2007. She was professor of counseling at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. She retired in 1995 as professor emerita. Survivors include her husband, Vincent Julian ’57.

81 Susan Sullivan Conboy of Pittsburgh, June 4, 2007. Survivors include her husband, Scott; her parents; a sister; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

88 Diane Phillippe Leeson of Mt. Lebanon, May 8, 2007. Survivors include her parents; a sister; and a nephew.

92 Annie Beth Evans of Butler, April 25, 2007. She was a former elementary teacher and most recently had been working with the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit teaching English as a Second Language. Survivors include her mother; a sister; a niece; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

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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.

Ann Nicodemus Spisak of State College, July 5, 2007. She served as the county editor of The Centre Daily Times until 1952. She was the secretary and treasurer, and later the chief financial officer of her family-owned Commercial Printing Inc. She retired in 2003. She served on the Westminster College Board of Trustees for more than 17 years. Active in the community throughout her life, she was a member of the Junior Women’s Club of State College, chair of the Centre County Child Welfare Board, an emergency room volunteer at Centre Community Hospital, and a volunteer Red Cross CPR instructor. She volunteered with The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, served two terms on the board of the Friends of The Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State, and was a member of several other committees and organizations. She was a member of the State College Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Alexander S. Spisak ’51; two sons, including Stuart Spisak ’82; and one granddaughter.

Jerome Caton Neff ’54 of Hilton Head Island, S.C., Oct. 4, 2007. Neff was currently serving his second term on the Westminster College Board of Trustees. After 35 years with Penton Publishing, he retired in 1998 as international vice president. While a student and basketball player at Westminster, he was named NAIA All-American and captained the basketball team his senior year. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, where his honors as a basketball player included MVP at the Armed Forces International Tournament, Army All Star at the national AAU Tournament, and an Olympics tryout in 1956. He was inducted into the Westminster College Basketball Hall of Fame and co-founded the Towering Titans Organization. Survivors include his wife, Gretchen; three sons; three daughters; 11 grandchildren; and a sister.
For our Future

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~ R. Thomas Williamson
President

To learn more about how you can begin the process to endow a scholarship fund, contact Sue Rudloff at 724-946-7673 or rudlofse@westminster.edu.
Westminster alumni carry on the Titan tradition. Fifteen new Legacy students joined the Westminster family this year. Here they gather with their alumni family members for a special reception at Ferguson Hall on move-in day. Standing from left are Carl Landis ’76, Janine Weitzel Landis ’76, Scott Powner ’75, Chris Nappi Matthew ’82, Keri Biedka ’11, Mark Biedka ’78, Jeannine Hatch Anthony ’86, Hannah Haldeman ’11, Bruce Haldeman ’77, Rachel Hoffman ’11, Patty Hoffman, Donna Battles Custer ’83, Kandice Hartner ’11, Maria Svetina Bayuk ’80, Kelly Hartner ’06, Anne Treleaven Humphries ’76, Dan Humphries ’76, Sharon Schwab Lynn ’83, Mike Cosgrove ’93, Diana Hartzell ’96, Harry Zehnder ’92 and Steven Ward ’78. Seated from left are Emily Landis ’11, Kellie Clemens ’11, Madalyn Matthew ’11, Megan Anthony ’11, Rachel Custer ’11, John Bayuk ’11, Laura Bayuk ’06, Tim Lynn ’11, Brian Cosgrove ’11, Patrick Zehnder ’11 and Elizabeth Ward ’11.