Alumni build on Westminster foundation
The room was warm, but the atmosphere electric with anticipation. Despite the disappointment of many that the ceremony was brought indoors into a gymnasium without air conditioning on a warm late spring day, the benefits of the decision would soon become apparent as the predicted deluge finally arrived upon the Westminster campus. But the storm could not dampen the excitement of the parents, family and friends of those students about to receive their degrees as Westminster’s 155th Commencement ceremonies got under way.

For the faculty and staff of a college, graduation remains the highlight of the academic year. The fruits of their instructional and mentoring labors over the past four years are harvested in the form of pride and accomplishment in seeing their students realize the dream of a college degree. At Westminster, the ceremony holds special significance for the parents of Westminster’s many first-generation collegians. The pride of their parents is especially apparent as the anticipation grows, awaiting the time in which their graduate’s name is called.

Standing on the dais prepared to hand a diploma to the next graduate, I had the best view of anyone in that large room of what this day meant to the student. The anticipation and excitement in their eyes ranked among the most enduring and meaningful images in my 30 years in higher education. I could not help but think to myself, “We truly are in the business of changing people’s lives.” I wish you could have witnessed this alongside me. You, too, would have been impressed with the significance of the moment knowing that within that line of eager graduates there stood America’s best hope for a better tomorrow. Indeed, these were students not only well prepared in the fundamentals necessary to succeed within a given profession, but imbued with strong values, spirituality, a commitment to others, and a sense of service and genuine caring for one another. These were good people.

Westminster’s newest graduates are entering an uncertain world. The Great Recession may linger for years. Job opportunities may be scarce. Financial security for the long term may be harder to attain. But the faces of the 335 graduates who walked across that platform on May 16, 2009, reflected nothing but hope, optimism, resolve, and excitement about what lay ahead. An outstanding liberal arts education prepared them to adjust, adapt, and thrive through whatever cards life dealt them. And for all of us responsible for their education while at Westminster, we felt great pride in once more fulfilling our mission to “help men and women develop competencies, commitments and characteristics which have distinguished human beings at their best.”

I invite each of you to share in this mission. It is worthy of your support. On behalf of all our alumni, the faculty and staff of Westminster College, let me offer our best wishes to the Class of 2009!

Dr. Richard H. Dorman
President
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Dr. Alan Gittis

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Photo Credits
Front cover – Tiffany Shaffer

In the Next Issue
President's Report and Honor Roll of Giving
Commencement

Another rainy spring Saturday meant an indoor ceremony for Westminster’s graduating seniors. For the second consecutive year, the Field House, not the traditional Senior Terrace, housed the annual event.

More than 330 diplomas were awarded at Westminster’s 155th annual commencement exercises. Three hundred and five students earned undergraduate degrees, while an additional 30 received master’s degrees.

Honorary doctor of public service degrees were presented to Nancy and Bruce Beeghly. Mrs. Beeghly served two terms on Westminster’s Board of Trustees and is currently the communications chair of Beatitude House, a transitional housing and education program for homeless women and children. Mr. Beeghly, president of Altronics, Inc., was appointed by Ohio Governor Bob Taft to the Ohio Board of Regents to a term that will expire in 2010.

The College honored retiring faculty member Dr. Barbara Faires, mathematics, and awarded her professor of mathematics emerita status. Dr. Alan G. Gittis, professor and chair of the Department of Psychology, received the annual Distinguished Faculty Award.

Nancy and Bruce Beeghly, above center, were awarded honorary doctorate degrees. Mrs. Beeghly told graduating seniors to be “grateful, be generous, and, above all, be kind. Then, even when the hard battles come—and they will—you will find much happiness anyway.”

Dr. Barbara Faires, a member of the faculty since 1976, earned her undergraduate degree from East Carolina University, her master’s from the University of South Carolina, and Ph.D. from Kent State University. While at Westminster, Faires served as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Faculty Forum was established in 1990 during Faires’ term as dean of the College and vice president for academic affairs, and was renamed in her honor. She was recently named secretary-elect of the Mathematics Association of America.
Senior class speaker Ashley Carnahan, a business administration major from Greensburg, delivered her address “Westminster Is…”

The day’s events began with baccalaureate service in Orr Auditorium. The Rev. Dr. Kari Turner McClellan, senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Levittown and a 1973 Westminster graduate, shared “Wearing Only a Towel.”

Ashley Carnahan delivered the senior address “Westminster Is…”

The Rev. Dr. Kari Turner McClellan ‘73, senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Levittown, provided the baccalaureate address.

Dr. Jesse Mann, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, gathers with students receiving summa cum laude honors.
Every day in Daniel Miller’s Carthage College classroom, Westminster professor Alan Gittis is present. Whether Miller is giving a lecture, advising a student, or assisting his undergraduates in research, Gittis—the teacher he’s aimed to emulate—is always with him.

When Miller ‘83 set foot on Westminster’s campus for the first time, he was immediately drawn to Gittis, this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award. Miller was amazed by his professor’s commitment to teaching, marveled in his passion for research and found in him a role model.

“There was no one in my family who had achieved his level of education, so I learned what it meant to be an educated person from watching him and talking with him,” said Miller, professor of psychology and neuroscience and chair of the Department of Psychology at Carthage. “I learned what it meant to be a scientist and how to think like a scientist. I learned that we can study behavior in non-human animals and learn important things about ourselves in the process. Most importantly, I learned that being a professor at a small liberal arts college was a noble and rewarding way to spend one’s life.”

Miller is just one of several former students who point to Gittis as their inspiration. He’s been called a mentor, an icon of excellence, and one of “Westminster’s finest.” Gittis, a fixture at Westminster since 1976, humbly downplays the accolades.

Gittis noted the Distinguished Faculty Award plaque, but said the real honors come in “through the warm wishes and accomplishments of students who I have taught and advised. It is a source of great satisfaction.”

“My goal,” said Gittis, “is to have students feel more like natural philosophers than technicians. I’m not a schoolmarm. I hate scoring rubrics and taking roll. I ask students to join me in wondering about fascinating things.”
Gittis had a modest upbringing. Raised in Philadelphia, his father owned a children’s clothing store and his mother was a bookkeeper. He attended Temple, but probably could have earned a degree in ’60s music if the time spent taking in rock and folk shows at legendary clubs like Second Fret and The Electric Factory could have transferred to academic credit hours.

At Temple, he switched back and forth between science and literature. It was an English professor who helped him understand the complexities of the human mind through the writings of Shakespeare and a biology teacher who introduced him to the wonderment of evolution. He enjoyed psychology, or rather a more existential approach to it, and it really wasn’t until he took on graduate school that he had a keener sense of what route he wanted to take.

Gittis headed to Ohio State, where he was offered a research assistantship with a psychologist who studied neural activity in primates.

"From my undergraduate days, I had come to the realization that clinical psychology was actually rather uninteresting. I was much more interested in evolutionary questions," he said.

Gittis’ inquisitive nature has never waned—he remains in tune with what happens on the neuroscience forefront by reading journals and books relative to his field. As a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, he can examine research proposals that contain the newest ideas and insights in his field. But what really keeps him current: teaching.

“Teaching, trying to keep it fresh, and advising student thesis projects—working with students often opens up new research questions for me,” Gittis said.

“My talents are atypical for scientists in the field,” Gittis admits. “I am not particularly turned on by technology for its own sake. A scientific fact that asks more and more about less and less is not something that excites me. Rather I am interested in issues that are more existential and thus I encourage students to ask questions that resonate to these issues.”

He asks his students to take ownership and become researchers—“researchers” who follow his mentoring model and, as seniors, take on freshmen assistants to aid in their explorations.

Gittis brand of pedagogy promotes intellectual curiosity and is perfectly suited for a liberal arts setting such as Westminster.

“To observe Alan interacting with students is a magnificent sight,” said colleague Dr. Katherine Robertson, assistant professor of biology. “He expects a lot from them, yet inspires them with such enthusiasm for their chosen field that it is hard to believe they are not graduate students or even professional scientists.”

Dan Miller recalls a summer course in 1981. With only five students, the classroom atmosphere was relaxed and intimate. It was the era before smoking bans, the era where nearly every student puffed away on cigarettes—even in the classrooms.

“One day we brought cigars to class and offered one to Dr. Gittis,” Miller said. “He said he enjoyed an occasional cigar, but because of the volume of material he had to cover that day, he declined to partake because it would interfere with his teaching.”

“Teaching came first for him,” said Miller. “And that is why I try to be like him.”

(Beatrice Hildebrand is the editor of Westminster Magazine.)

5 questions

Name one thing people would be surprised to know about you.

Although my research methodology makes use of laboratory rats, I really do not particularly care for them.

What is your definition of living a good life?

I’ve got it—particularly when I sit out on my deck, under the trees, with a good book.

When was the last time a student really surprised you?

There is a surprise in every box.

What do you enjoy in your spare time?

- Home do-it-yourself projects at a very slow pace.
- Doing bike trails with my wife, Margaret.
- Morning swims and breakfasts with friends at the Youngstown Jewish Community Center.
- Opera. We hold season tickets in Pittsburgh, travel to Glimmerglass in New York in the summer, and take in one or two operas a year at the Met.

What books are you currently reading?

This is Your Brain on Music by Daniel Levitin: I’m reading this to prepare for the cluster course I will be working on with Dan Perttu in the music department.

Mirroring People by Marco Iacoboni: For two reasons—great neuroscience insights on the role of mirror neurons in constructing human nature; my son, Brian, is the publicist for the book at Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Londongrad by Reggie Nadelson: Mysteries get fed to me by Brian’s girlfriend who also works in publishing.
Weisel ’79 to lead trustees

John T. Weisel ’79 has been named chair of the Westminster College Board of Trustees. Weisel, who replaces outgoing chair Debora Swatsworth Foster ’74, is a principal with Ernst & Young LLP. Originally elected to the board in 2001, Weisel has served on the board’s executive, finance, institutional advancement, and membership committees. He has nearly 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, and has worked with many of the largest financial services organizations. Much of his work has centered on the creation of new trading markets, customer-centric businesses, and netsourced enterprise management solutions. He resides in Montclair, N.J. with his wife, Jo Ann Cassebaum Weisel ’79.

Blue & White Listed

For the second consecutive year, Westminster launched a waiting list due to a record number of students wanting to enroll. Westminster reached maximum capacity for its incoming class May 5 with 475 students paying deposits to enroll as freshmen in August. Westminster received nearly 4,000 applications for admission, which shattered last year’s record by 33 percent. Westminster has had a nearly 200 percent increase in applications in the last two years. The incoming students boast a 3.5 high school grade point average in college preparatory core subjects and average nearly 1100 on the SAT, over 80 points above the national average.
Dave Gesacion ’00
Development Officer

Back in the swim of things

For Dave Gesacion ’00, the four years spent at Westminster as a student-athlete were some of the most influential years of his life. Returning to campus this spring as the College’s new development officer meant coming home.

“I feel that I am a better person because of my experience at Westminster. The relationships I made and the strong sense of family—these are some of the reasons I wanted to come back. To have the opportunity to be a part of this family again was a dream come true,” said the former Titan swimmer and Westminster Hall of Fame inductee.

As a development officer, Gesacion’s focus is raising funds for the College. Skills he developed as a college swimmer—dedication, commitment and mental toughness—will help in his new role, although he readily admits that many of the people with whom he speaks are alumni who share his fondness for Westminster.

“As most of the people I deal with are alumni who have spent four crucial years of their lives right here on our campus, too. Being an alumnus myself, I enjoy sharing Westminster stories and experiences, as well as all the great things that are happening on campus today,” Gesacion said.

Gesacion, a former swimming national champion and 2008 Hall of Fame inductee, was named a development officer for Westminster College in the spring. He won the 1998 NAIA National Championship in the 200-yard butterfly. Gesacion is married to Jeanine. They have a son Cameron, 5, and triplets, Brady, Carson and Kennadi, 2.
Holcad takes top award

*The Holcad*, Westminster’s student newspaper since 1884, earned a first-place award from the American Scholastic Press Association. The national competition evaluated newspapers from similar schools in six categories: content coverage; page design; general plan; art, advertising, and illustrations; editing; and creativity. *The Holcad* earned 905 points of a possible 1,000, with perfect scores for content coverage and editing. Lindsey Nuzzo ’09, a public relations major from Bradford, was the editor-in-chief. Delores Natale serves as faculty adviser.

Mississippi Building

Westminster’s Habitat for Humanity chapter observed its 20th anniversary by sending 65 volunteers—including President Dorman and his wife, Beverly—to Biloxi, Miss., for spring break. The group spent the week building homes for those displaced by Hurricane
Zachary Gantz knows a thing or two about horses. After a baseball knee injury several years ago, Gantz took up riding and training show horses. His equine knowledge, coupled with some business smarts, helped him create an award-winning plan to grow a horse-training business.

Gantz, who detailed the start-up of a business to train thoroughbred racing horses for the 2009 David W. Edward Entrepreneurship Scholarship competition, took home the purse—a $2,500 academic scholarship.

Gantz’s plan provided consulting expertise on the selection, purchase, breeding, and handling of thoroughbreds. Gantz outlined a realistic timetable that had the business start small (four horses) and grow to a full complement of 10 horses and a staff of qualified training assistants. Gantz included a complete, realistic, and well-researched analysis of the operational aspects of the profession, along with the revenues, costs, and challenges in a little understood but very competitive market, according to the judges.

The competition, conducted by Westminster’s Department of Economics and Business and supported by funding from the Edward Trust in Youngstown, Ohio, requires students to prepare and present a business plan depicting the creation of a new or substantially improved business, product, service, or some combination of the three.

Don’t toss your empty soda bottles. They just might inspire you to launch a hot, new product.

A Westminster team of students won the Duel in the Dumpster competition, the finale of the University of Arizona’s annual Global Retailing Conference, based on the design of an automatically refilling water dish. All entries had to be developed using only recycled materials.

Four members of Westminster’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team—Jeff Downey, Stephen LaRue, Nathan Capello and Stephen Previs—developed the pet bowl, along with a PowerPoint presentation, a production/inventory plan, a complete marketing plan, and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.

The competition was sponsored by TerraCycle, a leading developer of products made from recycled materials. As the winning team, the Westminster group will assist TerraCycle in the final design of the product and in determining its marketability.

SIFE members also took home their third consecutive regional title for creating and implementing educational outreach projects in the community. SIFE team members developed presentations to fellow Westminster students and neighboring high schools; produced an anti-piracy commercial; organized a student consulting service for local businesses; completed a business plan for a growing enterprise; and organized a stock market competition between teams from local high schools.
**Emotional Intelligence**

Dr. Jacque King, assistant professor of business, won two awards for a paper he presented in October at the Association of Management/International Association of Management conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

King’s paper, “Emotional Leadership through Emotional Intelligence: High Achieving Leaders Do It; Low Achieving Leaders Don’t,” received awards for “Best Paper - Leadership Article” and “Platform Skills in Presentation.” Leadership was one of four paper categories at the 81-paper conference.

King links emotional intelligence to successful, high achieving leaders, suggesting high-achieving leaders make followers the best they can be, while low-achieving leaders make themselves the best they can be.

*Jacque King, who has been with Westminster since 2006, earned an undergraduate degree from Washington and Jefferson College and M.B.A. and Ph.D. from Regent University.*

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**History vs. Hollywood**

English faculty Dr. Elizabeth Ford, professor emerita, and Dr. Deborah Mitchell, associate professor, co-authored *Royal Portraits in Hollywood: Filming the Lives of Queens*, recently published by The University Press of Kentucky.

The book investigates the ways in which films about the lives of queens reproduce history and represent women. Ford and Mitchell follow the evolution of queens on film, noting how the depictions have developed from the 1930s to the present and calling attention to the ways in which films both reflect and dictate the social norms of their eras.

*Elizabeth Ford, who was with Westminster for 16 years, earned undergraduate and master’s degrees from Youngstown State University and a Ph.D. from Kent State University.*

*Deborah Mitchell, who has been with Westminster since 1992, earned undergraduate and master’s degrees from Youngstown State University and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University.*

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**Cover story**

Three Westminster College sports publications have earned national acclaim by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Westminster’s football, men’s and women’s tennis, and swim guides earned “Best Cover” honors in the 2008-09 CoSIDA Publication Contest.

The covers were voted best in their respective sports for Division C, which consists of all guides from NCAA Division III, NAIA, NCCAA, junior colleges and Canadian schools. The covers were designed by Westminster Sports Information Director Justin Zackal.

*Justin Zackal, who has been with Westminster since 2006, earned an undergraduate degree from Waynesburg College and master’s from West Virginia University.*

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**Poverty & Education**

Dr. SoYoung Kang, Westminster College assistant professor of education, is a co-editor of *Poverty, Education and Development*, recently published by Nova Science Publishers. In addition to editing, Kang authored chapter 11, “Relational Poverty: Enrichment through Care Theory.”

The book addresses the state of poverty and its effects on education and development. It is organized in two sections: the first focuses on poverty and socio-economics; the second focuses on poverty in relation to gender.

*SoYoung Kang, who has been with Westminster since 2007, earned an undergraduate degree from Korea University and master’s and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.*
HOMECOMING &
REUNION WEEKEND
2009

October 9-11

There's no place like home!

Reconnect with old friends, visit with former professors, tour the campus, and rediscover the wonder of Westminster.

Some weekend activities you might enjoy:
- Chapel organ history and demonstration
- Tea with the Books
- Citation Celebration Reception and Dinner
- Homecoming Parade with TV Land theme
- All-Alumni Picnic
- Reunion Celebration Luncheons
- Westminster vs. Waynesburg football game
- Westminster vs. Chatham soccer game

Place your reservations, find the latest weekend information, and see who else will be attending by visiting us online at at http://connect.westminster.edu.
(Plus you can use the online Alumni Directory to contact your friends and make plans to meet on campus!)
Greetings,

Fall is Welcome Season at Westminster. As classes begin in September, we will welcome the Class of 2013, one of our largest classes. In October, alumni will be welcomed back for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, our largest alumni gathering each year.

There will be many things to do this Homecoming and Reunion Weekend—take in some Titan football, enjoy the parade, relax in the TUB, tour campus, sign the chalk boards, enjoy Tea with the Books in McGill Library, travel on a musical history of the organ, stock up on Titan garb in the Titan Gift Shop, talk with faculty and more. Now is the time to contact classmates and friends and make plans to meet on campus. Weekend reservations may be made using the reservation form in the Homecoming and Reunion Weekend brochure or you can make them online at http://connect.westminster.edu.

In September Alumni Council will meet on campus. New members this year are Raymond Cebula ’66, Ryan Core ’97, Jordan Hinds ’06, Brian Kocian ’03, Michelle Landers ’91, Marie Nicholas Peterson ’51, Dennis Schotsch ’75, and Lee Scott ’07. Council members serve as key volunteer resources assisting with the Westminster Fund, alumni events on and off campus, and as a communication link between alumni and the College. If you are interested in serving on Alumni Council or would like to nominate someone, just talk with a council member or contact the alumni office at (724) 946-7364. Nominations may also be submitted online.

We look forward to welcoming you home to campus this fall.

Sincerely,

Mary Cooley James ’84
Director of Alumni Relations

Find WC on the Web

- http://connect.westminster.edu
  (See detailed instructions about registering on page 21.)
- http://www.westminster.edu/linkedin
- http://www.westminster.edu/facebook
- Twitter – http://www.twitter.com/westminsterpa
- Vimeo – http://www.vimeo.com/westminster
Regional Connections

As assistant director of alumni relations for Westminster College, Cindy Dafler works with regional alumni groups throughout the country to develop and strengthen Westminster Connections.

February 18
Pittsburgh
The Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee met in Cranberry Township to plan events for summer and fall 2009. Committee members attending the meeting were Jim Giel ‘74, Barbara Braden Guffey ‘70, Melissa Rea Goda ‘99, Phil Petraglia ‘83, Becky Rickard ‘98, Melissa Ruefle Spencer ‘98, and Melissa Wiley ‘00. Thank you to all of our dedicated committee members and watch for some great upcoming events in the Pittsburgh area.

May 9
Lawrence & Mercer Counties
More than 50 alumni and guests from the Lawrence and Mercer counties region enjoyed a dinner in the John S. Witherspoon Room of the McKelvey Campus Center before the Celebrity Series performance of Bye Bye Birdie. Guests enjoyed dinner and a preview of the 2010 Celebrity Series season from director Gene DeCaprio ‘50. After dinner, guests enjoyed a performance in Orr Auditorium.

May 2 & 3
Philadelphia and Lancaster
Two Presidential Welcome Receptions for President Dorman and his wife, Beverly, were held in eastern Pennsylvania. On May 2, 10 Philadelphia-area alumni and guests gathered at Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse for a reception hosted by Sharon Ellwood McCullough ‘79. On May 3, 27 Lancaster-area alumni and guests gathered at the home of hosts Judd and Margaret Edmonds McConnell ‘55. Guests attending both events enjoyed meeting the Dormans and visiting with fellow alumni. Thank you to Mike Marsh ‘94, Alumni Council member, for attending both receptions.

May 30
Pittsburgh and Lawrence & Mercer Counties
Seventy alumni and guests from Pittsburgh and Lawrence and Mercer counties gathered in PNC Park to watch the Pirates baseball game followed by Skyblast 2009, which included spectacular fireworks and a live concert. Thank you for SAA member Leigha Krivacek ‘11 and student Doug Orloski ‘11 for assisting, and thank you to our Pittsburgh Regional Alumni Committee for helping to plan this great alumni outing.

July 10
South Park
Twenty-three alumni and guests enjoyed dinner at the South Park Clubhouse before attending a South Park Theatre performance of the play Cheat Sheets, written by alumnus F. J. Hartland ‘80. Hartland attended dinner and spoke to the group. Special thanks to Pittsburgh Regional Alumni Committee members Phil Petraglia ‘83, Becky Rickard ‘98, and Melissa Ruefle Spencer ‘98 who helped plan the outing.

Upcoming events for Westminster alumni, parents, and friends

- Nov. 12, 2009:
  Pittsburgh Networking Luncheon at the Rivers Club

It’s been a busy spring for Regional Connections. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to meet with regional alumni volunteers throughout the country. Westminster regional alumni events are successful because of your participation. Contact your Westminster friends and classmates and come to an event! Also, please write me or call me if you are interested in making connections for Westminster in your area. I’d love to hear from you.

Cindy Dafler ‘03 has been a member of the Westminster College Staff since 1991. As assistant director of alumni relations, Cindy works with regional alumni groups throughout the country to develop and strengthen Westminster connections.

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.

A call for volunteers!

The Alumni Office is looking to add regional alumni volunteers to committees for the following cities: Cleveland, Akron-Canton and Youngstown areas in Ohio and Lawrence & Mercer counties and Clarion areas in Pennsylvania.

Please contact me at 724-946-7373 or daflercs@westminster.edu for more information and if you are interested in serving.
ALUMNI
Gatherings

1. Lancaster “Meet the President” reception hosts Judd and Margaret Edmonds McConnell ’55 ’55

2. Sharon Ellwood McCullough ’74, Rick and Bev Dorman and Bruce McCullough at Philadelphia’s “Meet the President” reception

3. Lancaster “Meet the President” reception

4. Doug Orloski ’11, Leigha Krivacek ’11, Caryn Mehalik Pizon ’96, Tony Pizon ’97 and Benjamin Pizon attend the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball outing.

5. South Park gathering

Now more than ever...

Investing in higher education is vitally important.

Investing in a Westminster Fund annual scholarship for a student helps:

- Build better lives
- Strengthen our communities
- Produce future leaders

Please consider making a gift to the 2009-2010 Westminster Fund. In addition to benefiting students (98 percent receive scholarship support), your annual gift helps the College obtain major gifts and grants from businesses, corporations, and foundations.

Ways to make your gift:

Mail: use the envelope enclosed in this issue of Westminster Magazine. If you want your gift designated for a specific purpose, please indicate so on your check’s memo line.

Online: www.westminster.edu/giving.

Phone: call (724) 946-7532 to use your credit card.

Thank you for your gift.
A college professor and writer, a nurse practitioner, a young musician. Not much of a common thread between the three, with the exception that what they are accomplishing in their careers is extraordinary—and that their undergraduate backgrounds at Westminster provided the foundations for success.

Profiles by Elizabeth Hildebrand and Justin Zackal
Why write a memoir?
Flannery O’Connor wrote an essay in which she discussed her story “Good Country People.” She said she didn’t know the Bible salesman was going to steal the lady Ph.D.’s wooden leg until a few sentences before he did it. That’s what I like about writing fiction, too, how a character can take over, do something unexpected.

But in essays, people have already done what they’re going to do; there’s no changing that. What’s more interesting to me is thinking about and reflecting on what those actions mean. In his book Love’s Executioner, Irv Yalmon, discusses four existential concerns—death, freedom, isolation, and meaning—and those are the very concerns I get myself into a tizzy about all the time, especially that fourth one, the idea of meaning. Writing essays lets me explore that.

What is your process?
I write every day—about a thousand words describing something I’ve seen or heard or wondered about or fretted over. Then I stick those thousand words in a file and the next day, and the day after that, I write a thousand more. I write until I build up a great big file. Then I stew for a while. I read through that file looking for connections, crisscrossing subjects, patterns, recurring images. Then it’s time to stitch together, take apart, cut, paste, write, revise. Revising is my favorite part. I really love to sit at my desk and tinker with words.
“What Westminster provides is a truly liberal arts education, one that promotes critical thinking, reading and writing skills. As a student at Westminster, I was invited into a world of ideas. I was not only shown what intellectual curiosity looks like, but also how it can serve you, and how it can help you serve others.”

How do you successfully and subtly incorporate humor into your writing without blatantly forcing it upon your readers?

People tell each other funny stories, amusing anecdotes, about their day-to-day lives all the time. But the thing about hearing an anecdote is it’s usually only hilarious if you were there. Sometimes, though, the story is interesting even if you weren’t there, and for me, that happens when I care about the people in the story. My students and I call this “Species Recognition”—readers need to have a sense of the people they’re reading about. Readers need to recognize these people as fellow humans.

But while the story needs to be good, and the characters need to be developed, there’s still the matter of what does it mean and why should the reader care. My students and I call this “The So What Factor.” In order to push the anecdote beyond “you had to be there,” the writer needs to reflect. The writer needs to answer to the question of “so what” and best answers go beyond the obvious. For me, a good piece of writing will lead me to two reactions: recognition—I know exactly what you mean—or revelation—I never thought of it like that. But the best writing gives me both.

When it comes to humor writing, there’s even more to think about. A lot has been written about humor theory. Plato and Aristotle, Freud, Immanuel Kant and Soren Kierkegaard and Thomas Hobbes, Arthur Schopenhauer—they all have ideas about what humor is, where it comes from, how and why something is funny. They talk about humor that makes someone else the butt of the joke, humor where you are the butt of the joke, humor as a way to bring relief to a tension situation, humor that comes out of incongruities and absurdities. One of my favorite humorists, David Sedaris, does all of those things in his work. He’s interesting to look at, too, for how he handles pacing and tone, when he uses hyperbole (usually when the situation is more mundane) and when he underwrites (usually when the situation is bizarre). He’s a master.

How do you take the praise and criticism regarding your book and your writing?

A woman in Montreal says my book is terrible. A preacher in North Carolina says my book is his favorite. There’s a reader who says I have no redeeming qualities. There’s a reader who says I am funny and smart and full of life and love. One reader says I’m glib about being a terrible mother, while another says the love I have for my son is clear.

The conclusion I’ve come to is this: some readers like my book, but some readers don’t.

This is where 15 years of teaching at the college level comes in handy. I’m used to being reviewed. Fifteen years is 30 semesters, and at the end of each of those semesters, students in my classes fill out anonymous class evaluations. Thousands of students have rated, critiqued, evaluated the job I did—did they learn anything; was the course well organized; did I seem enthusiastic, did I seem like I knew what I was talking about, and so on. My students never give me high marks in organization, but the majority of them rate me well in everything else.

Except for one person. There’s always one person every semester who’s not happy with me, one person who gives me zeros in all categories. And sometimes that person writes in a comment, too, to further express his or her dissatisfaction. My favorite of these was this: “Every time Joseph says good morning it makes me want to vomit.”

I’d only been teaching a year or two when I got that comment, and I remember it made me feel 1) amused; and 2) sort of bad. I talked to my department chair about it, and he said, “Well, it looks like you ticked someone off. That’s not necessarily a bad thing. It means you’ve done your job. It’s not good if everyone hates you, but it’s also not good if everyone loves you. If you haven’t ticked off at least one person, then you haven’t done your job.”

I think that’s true for writers, too.

What authors inspire you?

I’m crazy about Flannery O’Connor. Melanie Rae Thon has been an influence, and Lorrie Moore, and David Sedaris. My favorite book is Milan Kundera’s The Book of Laughter and Forgetting. I read it at least once a year.

How did Westminster help shape you as a writer?

My time at Westminster was invaluable to who I am as a writer. I was lucky to have professors like Fritz Horn and Bob VanDale, who were supportive and encouraging, but who also challenged me to think in bigger, deeper, more rigorous ways. What Westminster provides is a truly liberal arts education, one that promotes critical thinking, reading and writing skills. As a student at Westminster, I was invited into a world of ideas. I was not only shown what intellectual curiosity looks like, but also how it can serve you, and how it can help you serve others.

Diana Joseph is currently working on new essays and contemplating her next book project.
Whenever Anna Tielsch Goddard gets a little discouraged during her work day, she flips open the cover of her planner and reads those lines written by Loren Eisley in her collection of essays *The Star Thrower*:

> The words help get Goddard through her day, keep her grounded, and remind her that her actions—whether great or small—will, no doubt, make a difference to someone.

In Goddard’s line of work, a nurse practitioner in the neurodevelopmental disorders clinic at Dallas Childrens Medical Center, she is forever making a difference. Goddard cares for children who have been dealt tough hands in life—children with autism, mental retardation, traumatic brain injuries—in a job that, for many others, would be nothing less than heartbreaking.

But she keeps her emotions in check and remembers the starfish.

> “Sometimes different situations can be very upsetting and uncomfortable to deal with, but when you are dealing with this population of patients you need to rise above any emotions and feelings and try your best to make a difference for that family and that child,” said Goddard, a 2002 Westminster graduate.

Goddard—who had been a pre-medicine biology student as an undergraduate—knew early on that she wanted to care for people, but it was during her job-shadowing experience at Westminster that she realized her true calling.

She narrowed her focus to nurse practitioner, a role that would allow me to participate in all three while still being able to accomplish other goals in my life—earning a Ph.D., writing a book, and becoming a mother,” she said. “I know that physicians are also able to accomplish these other rewards in life, but I felt that I would be happier and have better balance.”

Because nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have either master’s or doctorate degrees and advanced clinical training in a health care specialty field, Goddard earned a master’s degree in nursing with a focus on pediatrics.

Goddard is proud of the work she does and her field. She advises those interested in pursuing a similar path to do well in school, volunteer and job shadow.

> “One of my biggest pet peeves is when students think ‘well, if I don’t get into medical school, I will just become a physician assistant or nurse practitioner,” she said. “You should want to become an NP or PA because THAT is the role you want to fill in health care. It’s not a stepping stone to becoming a physician.”

Before Dallas, Goddard worked in a primary care clinic in Connecticut where she dealt mostly with middle school-aged children—treating and preventing sexually transmitted diseases and addressing children experiencing emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Today a typical workday can be a stream of patient referrals, physical examinations, collaborating with physicians, planning courses of action for patients, and family consultations.

> “They inspire me,” Goddard said of the children she has had the opportunity to treat. “When you have an autistic child give you direct eye contact and who is able to say their name aloud, when you have a parent call your clinic to tell you ‘thank you’ for spending extra time with them in explaining their child’s diagnosis, it only makes you want to keep working harder.”

> “At the end of the day,” said Goddard, “you have to know that you did your best and you have made a difference for that patient, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant it sometimes feels. I know that it made a difference to that one.”

—E.H.
The first semester of his freshman year, J.D. Eicher was singing and playing his guitar at the Berlin Lounge on the Westminster College campus. Those early performances in front of 40 or so fellow students were just the beginning for Eicher.

“Timid,” as he calls them. “It was simple at first, nothing like the energy level we have now.”

Eicher’s tennis coach, of all people, offered a few pointers.

“As a typical coach, I had a critique for him,” Westminster head men’s tennis coach Scott Renninger recalls. “I’d say, J.D., you’re the man, just play. He’d get up there and stand up and talk. Quit spending time apologizing. You’re the show—keep playing!”

Since the intrepid singer/songwriter’s first shows in front of his peers in 2005, Eicher has heeded his coach’s advice. He has recorded two albums as a solo artist, formed the band J.D. Eicher & The Goodnights, and went on tour and opened for Rod Stewart, Bryan Adams, and Coldplay, to name a few.

Within days after graduating from Westminster, Eicher and his band—with members Louis Simeone ’09, Ryan Kirk ’09 and Jordan Graham—were in the recording studio laying tracks for a new album, The Shape of Things. The band is scheduled to perform at Westminster during Homecoming weekend.

You can bet Renninger will be there. Not only did Eicher bounce melodies and song ideas off audiences as an undergraduate, but he bounced tennis balls on the courts as a four-year member of the Westminster men’s tennis team. An ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District selection, Eicher earned a degree in business and music with a 3.95 grade-point average, tops amongst all senior male varsity athletes at Westminster in 2008-09.

“The diversity that he displayed is amazing,” Renninger marvels. “He’s the finest young man that I’ve coached and he’s just a pleasure to be around.”

Eicher successfully balanced—perhaps even literally at times—the weight of a racquet bag, a gig bag for his guitar, and a book bag.

“Well, I’m not exactly the best tennis player around,” admits Eicher, who posted a 4-11 record at No. 6 singles, the Titans’ second-best singles record in 2009. “The music, that’s my love. Any free time I have I’m writing or playing or just listening to music.

“Tennis was great. I really enjoyed the camaraderie. It was something to take my mind off everything,” he said. “I would debate each year not playing but the guys on the team were welcoming and I wanted to be a part of the team.”

Eicher, appreciating his coach’s “understanding,” had a great two-way relationship with Renninger.

Eicher is also thankful for Camille Hawthorne, associate dean of student affairs, for helping him find his place. Eicher and his band played up to 15 shows a semester on and off campus.

“Our favorite shows are at Westminster because of the support here and a lot of students paying attention to what we are trying to do,” Eicher says. “We are one of their own.”

In the summer of 2008, Eicher and his band opened on a side stage for Rod Stewart and Bryan Adams at the Blossom Music Center outside of Cleveland. In May, they played a V.I.P. club to warm up the crowd for a Coldplay concert at the Post-Gazette Pavilion near Pittsburgh.

Eicher’s music, described as alternative acoustic rock, is often compared to acts like Coldplay, The Dave Matthews Band and John Mayer.

His songwriting comes from a wide spectrum of life experiences ranging from relationships, both good and bad, to political and social ideas.

Eicher knows he has to bide his time to make it in the music industry. He still compares himself to most unemployed recent college graduates, just pursuing a dream in the meantime.

“Right now it’s a lot of hoping and waiting,” he says.

And, to echo the pleas of his tennis coach, time to just keep playing.

– J.Z.
1951
William Dembaugh recently completed 47 years as tenor soloist at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, N.J. He also sings at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and Temple B’nai Abraham. Recent stage performances include King Kaspar in Menotti’s *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and Frederick Law Olmsted in *Promise of the Park*. His wife, Jean Whitaker Dembaugh ’53, is active in local theatre as a performer and a stage director.

1958
Gerald Schofield of Novato, Calif., recently retired from the Department of Public Health after more than 16 years. This is his second retirement, as he retired after 21 years as hospital administrator at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

1962
John Slocum retired as professor emeritus from Southern Methodist University after 42 years of teaching, research, writing, and the completion of his 27th college textbook. John and his wife, Gail, reside in Plano, Texas.

1964
Dr. Robert Coles of Mauldin, S.C., received the 2008 Presidential Achievement Award from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons for significant long-term contributions to the specialty.

1967
James Wright Jr. retired as a senior underwriter for Amica Mutual Insurance. Jim and his wife, Kathy, make their home in Victor, N.Y.

1968
Joyce Carney Smith retired as a career counselor and president of Human Potential, Inc. She and her husband, Martin, have relocated to Heritage Harbour, a retirement community in Annapolis, Md.

1969
Jennifer Miller Williams has published *Together, One Step at a Time*, which chronicles the rare neuropathy (CIDP) that attacked her husband, Bob Williams ’67. The book follows the journey from walking to wheelchair to walking again, and details the treatments and therapy involved.

William Myers retired as director of leadership education for The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. He was on the faculty and served as academic dean at Chicago Theological Seminary and was a youth and family minister in three states. He is currently a consultant for In Trust, a group that provides advice on governance for theological schools. Bill and his wife, Barbara, reside in Pittsburgh.

1970
Gregory Geletka is chief operating officer for Amstar Global Advisors, a private equity firm. Greg and his wife, Cynthia, live in Norwalk, Conn.
1972

1974
Dennis Fike retired from the Hermitage School District after 34 years. He continues as organist and choir director for Faith Presbyterian Church. Denny and his wife, Vicki, live in Hermitage.

1975
Beth Denlinger Hunter is self-employed as a harp therapist. She and her husband, Jim, make their home in Otto, N.C.

1976
The Rev. Tempe Earl Fussell is the minister at Sedgefield Presbyterian Church (USA). She and her husband, Robert, live in Jamestown, N.C.

Jane Davis Minton (M) retired after 33 years as an educator, three as a high school English teacher and 30 as a school counselor. She and her husband, James, have moved to Westfield, N.Y.

1978
Craig Eckstrom is vice president of sales with Ebay Pay Pal. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Ridgefield, Conn.

Sandy Edwards Langford completed her fourth trip with the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights, N.J., to the Gulf coast of Louisiana for hurricane relief work.

Pete Lefferts completed the World Challenge Deca Triathlon in Monterrey, Mexico, in 15th place as the only American finisher among the field of 18 competitors. His time was the third fastest American finishing time in deca ironman triathlon history. He and his wife, Jodie, make their home in Naples, Fla.

John Wilkie retired after 30 years teaching in the North Carolina public schools. He and his wife, Bonnie, live in Charlotte, N.C.

1979
Cherrie Keyes Markwood was promoted to lead technical writer for ADP Inc.

1984
Thomas Davis Jr. of Poland, Ohio, received the Certified in Financial Forensics credential from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is a principal in the Boardman (Ohio) office of Hill, Barth, & King LLC.

1988
Tracy Stuck was promoted to assistant vice president of student affairs at The Ohio State University.

1990
Raymond Dinkel is a chartered wealth advisor with PNC in Murrysville. The father of two has relocated to Pittsburgh.

1991
Kristan Accles Morrison is an associate professor of education at Radford University. She and her husband, Barry, live in Pulaski, Va.

1992
Daniel Reed is self-employed as a non-mammalian taxidermist. He and his wife, Joan, reside in Baltimore, Md.

1993
Kimberly McCormick’s second book, Hey, Girlfriend, was recently published. The collection of monologues for teenage girls, inspired by Kimberly’s daughter, covers dilemmas girls deal with every day. Kimberly is a music teacher and reading specialist at the New Wilmington Elementary School.

1994
Cathy Puskarich Guerra is a teacher in the Weathersfield (Ohio) Local Schools. She and her husband, David, and two daughters reside in McDonald, Ohio.
1995
Richard Sterba was named a principal in the Washington, D.C., office of Fish & Richardson P.C. law firm. Richard is part of the Litigation Group and focuses his practice on patent litigation in the fields of electrical and mechanical engineering, semiconductors, display devices, telecommunications, and medical devices.

1996
Erin Anderson Schuetz earned a master’s in student affairs in higher education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is the interim coordinator of transitions services at Clarion University. She and her husband, Kevin, and son live in Fairmount City. (See also New Additions.)

Matthew Esch was promoted to team supervisor of the Parent-Teen Conflict program at Family Resources. In addition to maintaining his own case load, he supervises other master’s-level therapists. He and his wife, Angela, and two children live in Pittsburgh.

Lynnette Hegimbotham Griffith earned her master’s in social work and is a clinical social worker in the behavioral health unit at Butler Memorial Hospital. She lives in Chicora with her husband, Brian, and three children.

1997
Elizabeth Addis Gillen has started Gillen Communications, LLC, a public relations, marketing, and event planning agency. She and her husband, Mike, and two children live in South Fayette. (See also New Additions.)

Tonya Griffith Roberts earned a master’s in healthcare administration from the University of Phoenix. She and her husband, Matthew Roberts, and son live in Carthage, Mo., where Tonya is establishing a business.

Kimberly Levanodosky Swift accepted a position as senior account manager with QIAGEN Inc. She resides in Springfield, Mo., with her husband, Kevin Swift ’98.

Jason Old is the assistant news director at WIS TV. He and his wife, Megan, and daughter reside in Irmo, S.C.

1998
Jennifer Jeffery resides in Coatesville, where she is a teacher and librarian in the Coatesville Area School District.

Michael Aey and his wife, Mary Haug Aey ’02, have founded Custom Recycling Solutions, a firm that picks up and hauls recyclable materials. Mary is president and CEO; Michael is vice president. In addition, Michael is director of purchasing and marketing with Associated Paper Stock. The couple and their two children live in Canfield, Ohio.

Julia McGlumphy of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., was promoted to front of the house manager at the Ritz-Carlton.

1999
Julia Thompson and her husband, Roy, make their home in Linville, Va.

Emily Hatala, a teacher at the Manchester School, earned a master’s from Duquesne University. She has moved to Pittsburgh.

2001
Bradley Ebel is employed with Shire Pharmaceuticals. He and his wife, Trish, live in Framingham, Mass.

Jaclyn Haubach of Portsmouth, N.H., teaches third and fourth grades in Hampton Falls, N.H.

Pamela Schrag Trentini is a labor relations assistant with Reliant Energy. She lives in Cecil with her husband, Jason.

2002
Michael Power of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is general manager with 84 Lumber Company.

Rachel Steele Pryke is an asset manager with Single Source Property Solutions. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, David, and their daughter.

Jessica Torick completed the requirements for the National Board of Certified Counselors and is a nationally certified counselor.

2003
Jennifer Poole Brooks is employed by Stern Heatwole Financial Group. She and her husband, Roy, make their home in Linville, Va.

Emily Hatala, a teacher at the Manchester School, earned a master’s from Duquesne University. She has moved to Pittsburgh.

2004
Julie Lechner Thompson and her husband, Brian, live in Midlothian, Va., where Julie is a dental assistant in the office of Dr. Hood Biggers.

Alisa Locke Mehlo earned a master’s in educational theatre with English certification from New York University. (See also Weddings.)

Amanda Ries is area coordinator in the Office of Residence Life at Seton Hill University in Greensburg.

2005
Meredith Kerner is the supervisor of cost allocation for the real estate division of U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh and is pursuing her MBA at Seton Hill University.

Kristi Pelikan is a residential treatment facilities services coordinator with the Human Services Administration Organization RTF Group in Allegheny County and is pursuing a master’s in legal studies and criminal justice at California University of Pennsylvania.

Ray Walling is an electronic services and government documents librarian at Baker University. He has relocated to Lawrence, Kan.

2007
Sarah Gold of Houston, Texas, is an instrumental music teacher in the Hamilton Middle School of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District.

Amanda Kraemer Corder is a teacher in the Craven County (N.C.) schools. She and her husband, Adam, live in Greeneville, N.C.

James Sharcoat of Pittsburgh is a banker with Citizens Bank.
2008
Kelly Altemose of Kittanning is a special education teacher at The Summit Academy.

Lindsay Crist is teaching English at a private academy in South Korea.

Alexander McLuckey of Brandon, Fla., is a sixth-grade earth science teacher at Bartow Middle School.

Lindsey Thomas of Greensboro, N.C., is a sixth-grade math and social studies teacher at Eastern Guilford Middle School.

1991
Dr. Julia A. Sampson and Heath Frankland, July 4, 2008. Julia is an assistant professor at Malone University. The couple lives in Canton, Ohio.

1992
Rachel Leigh Guy and Aaron Drew Connell, Dec. 27, 2008, at Mary Mother of Hope Parish. Organist and accompanist was Kris Harper ’81. Rachel is a teacher in the Shenango Area School District.

Doreen Zeranick and Traci Bonde, Sept. 27, 2008, on the water of the San Francisco Bay during the Celebration by the Bay. Doreen is a graduate student at John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, Calif. The couple resides in Walnut Creek, Calif.

1995

Scripture was read by Jennifer Call D’Amico ’93. Tami is the director of youth ministries at St. Paul’s UMC. The couple resides in Glenshaw.

1996
- Bryan Andrew Black and Genoa Jo Hansen, Sept. 6, 2008, at the Little Log Church Museum in Yachats, Ore. The Rev. Jon A. Black, father of the groom, performed the ceremony. Bryan is assistant professor for Oregon State University at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. The couple lives in Newport, Ore.

- Tony Carrabba and Aimee Zottola, May 17, 2008, at St. Mary of the Mount in Mt. Washington. Groomsmen were Brian Taylor ’97, Frank Samarini, and Charles Haskell ’97. A number of alumni were in attendance. Tony is the senior director of strategic planning for Giant Eagle Inc. The couple lives in Cranberry Township.

1998
- Cary Scott Gill and Maryrose Carenbauer, March 27, 2004, in Westminster College’s Wallace Memorial Chapel. Cary is a fourth-grade teacher in Shepherdstown, W. Va. The family resides in Martinsburg, W. Va., with their son, Cameron. (See also New Additions.)

2000
- Laura Dailey and Jason Wise, May 24, 2008. Jacolyn Syka Majure was a bridesmaid. Laura is a chiropractor in East Palestine, Ohio. The couple resides in Negley, Ohio.

- Anita L. Heider and Bryan J. Pasquale, Sept. 6, 2008, at the Old Stone Church in Monroeville. Tara Byrd was a bridesmaid. Also attending were Dawnelle Paldino ’01 and Summer Cicero Wasko.

Anita works for the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System as the suicide prevention coordinator. The couple lives in Delmont.

2001
- Jan-Lynn Volpe and James Donohue, July 11, 2008, in St. Camillus Church in New Castle. Alumni in the wedding party were Leigh-Ann Volpe Cangiello ’96. Kristianne Kalata Vaccaro ’00, Torie Krivak ’02, Gerald Volpe ’95, and James Cangiello ’98.

Jan-Lynn is a math teacher at the South Side Area School District. The couple lives in Bulger.
2003

2004
► Alisa Lenn Locke and Stephen Nye Mehlo, Oct. 11, 2008, at Tara – A Country Inn. The reception was held in Tara’s Old South Armory Room. Matron of honor was Amber Wertz and Holly Wertz ’03 was a bridesmaid. Alisa is a teacher for school professionals. The couple lives in Forest Hills, N.Y. (See also Class Notes.)

► Jennifer Williams and Joshua Heil, May 17, 2008. Alumni participating were Ryan Williams ’02, Nicole Beaver Williams ’03, and Angela Thompson. Jennifer is a therapist at Glade Run Lutheran Services. The couple resides in Cranberry Township.

2005
► Andrea Ceplecci and Sean Hall, Oct. 26, 2008, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Warren, Ohio. Stephen Franklin ’06 was a member of the wedding party and Professor Kang-Yup Na and Katherine Duncan participated in the ceremony.
Nikki Ferrari and Doug McMahon, Oct. 11, 2008, in Butler. Alumni in the wedding party were Betsy Schuessler Stein, Katie Etzel, Kristin Etzel, and Brad Steines. Nikki teaches biology and chemistry at Massac High School in Metropolis, Ill. Doug is a chemical engineer for Arkema, Inc. The couple lives in Paducah, Ky.

Philip Daniel McCann and Kristin Ann Bintrim, Dec. 6, 2008, at Neshannock Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington. Brian Andrews was best man and Willis Bretz served as a groomsman. Philip is a police officer in New Castle. The couple lives in Churchville, N.Y.

Michelle Ripper and Brian Daniels ’06, June 30, 2007, at First Presbyterian Church in Monaca. Christina Simon ’04 was maid of honor and Curtis Yenyo ’07 was a groomsman. Michelle is a fourth-grade math tutor in the Blackhawk School District. Brian is an investment planner at Fortune Financial Services in New Brighton. The couple lives in New Brighton.

2006
Aaron Bruck and Laura Whitson, July 5, 2008, at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Lafayette, Ind.

Amy Pohodich and Buck Thornton, Dec. 27, 2008, at Heinz Memorial Chapel. Megan Sweithelm ’07 was a bridesmaid. Groomsmen were BJ Sieg, Nate Horrell, and Andy Hudak. Buck is an outside representative for Renmark Electric and Amy completed her master’s degree in education with a special education certification from Waynesburg University. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

Kayla Nicole Pursifull and Ralph Allen Gordon Jr., Aug. 30, 2008, in Zion United Methodist Church in Rochester. Kayla is a substitute teacher in the Stark County School District in North Canton, Ohio, where the couple lives.

2007
Chelsey Miller and Larry Stallard, March 7, 2009, in Bethel Park. Alumni in the wedding party included Jessica Miller ’08, Emily Staniszewski, Megan McLaughlin, and Danielle Kirkwood. Several alumni attended the wedding. The couple lives with their son, Braylon Lawrence, in Bridgeville.

2008
Samantha Wayman and Jacob Moon, Dec. 27, 2008, at Hope Lutheran Church in Cranberry Township. Groomsmen were Jason Perry, Joseph Ohodnicki ’10, and Kevin Schneider ‘10. Jennifer Burnett was a bridesmaid. Jacob is the middle school band director at Beaver Local School District in Lisbon, Ohio, and Samantha is the preschool teacher at Little House Learning Center in Mars. The couple lives in Chippewa.

1986
Joe Burns and his wife, Tammy: a daughter, Ila Grace, 2, adopted from Guatemala. She joins Maxwell, 4, also adopted from Guatemala. The family lives in Hammond, La.

1991


1993
Gardner B. Low Jr. and his wife, Tricia: an adopted daughter, Ava Elizabeth, born June 19, 2008. She joins sister Erica at home in Hamburg, N.Y.

1995

Kara Sheets Albrecht and her husband, Michael: a son, Spencer Edward, on April 6, 2009. He joins Colin, 4, at home in Burlington, Ky. Kara is a clinical data programmer at Medpace in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1996
Erin Anderson Schuetz and her husband, Kevin: a son, Kyle Peter, born on Nov. 4, 2008, and adopted on Jan. 16, 2009. The family lives in Fairmount City. (See also Class Notes.)

Patty James Mutchler and her husband, Ray: a son, Sammy, on Oct. 12, 2008. He joins Maggie Mae, 3, at home in Neshannock
1997
Elizabeth Addis Gillen and her husband, Mike: a son, Luke Michael, on Sept. 3, 2007. He joins Katie at home in South Fayette. (See also Class Notes.)

1998
Cary Scott Gill and his wife, Maryrose: a son, Cameron Scott, on Sept. 3, 2005. The family lives in Martinsburg, W. Va. (See also Weddings.)

1999

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Keri Bartok Baugh and her husband, Chris Baugh ’96: a son, Desmond Frederick, on Feb. 27, 2009. The family lives in Boston, Mass.

Amy Lehman Strickler and her husband, Jeffrey: a daughter, Emma Addison, on Sept. 21, 2008. She joins Madison, 6, at home in Milford.

Cary Scott Gill and his wife, Maryrose: a son, Cameron Scott, on Sept. 3, 2005. The family lives in Martinsburg, W. Va. (See also Weddings.)

Elizabeth Holmes and her fiancé, Ryan Koutch: a daughter, Piper Ann, on Feb. 12, 2008. The couple resides in Rising Sun, Md., where Elizabeth is a professor at Harford Community College.

Mandy Snyder Corbett and her husband, Jeff: a son, Justus Alexander, on Nov. 6, 2008. He joins Annie, 7, Austin, 5, Samuel, 4, and Caeden, 2, at home in Grove City.

Amy Lehman Strickler and her husband, Jeffrey: a daughter, Emma Addison, on Sept. 21, 2008. She joins Madison, 6, at home in Milford.

Elizabeth Holmes and her fiancé, Ryan Koutch: a daughter, Piper Ann, on Feb. 12, 2008. The couple resides in Rising Sun, Md., where Elizabeth is a professor at Harford Community College.

Mandy Snyder Corbett and her husband, Jeff: a son, Justus Alexander, on Nov. 6, 2008. He joins Annie, 7, Austin, 5, Samuel, 4, and Caeden, 2, at home in Grove City.
Jennifer Drane Merli and her husband, Dan; a son, Colby Douglas, on Oct. 21, 2008. He joins Jonathan, 4, at home in Freeport.

Angela Hawley Turner and her husband, Jason; a daughter, Amelia Grace, on April 15, 2008. She joins Annabelle, 4, at home in Butler.

Virginia Lilly Brosius and her husband, Douglas Brosius ’98; a son, Grant Douglas, on Oct. 15, 2008. Virginia earned a doctor of physical therapy from the University of Pittsburgh.

Jennifer Dlugos Detwiler and her husband, Aaron Detwiler ’04; a daughter, Sophia Margaret, on March 8, 2008. She joins Henry, 2, at home in Greensburg.

Kimberly Geisler McIntyre and her husband, Jason; a daughter, Nora Jane, on Feb. 4, 2009. She joins Roan Jack at home in York County.

Christopher Hall and his wife, Jennifer; a son, Reid Christopher, on Jan. 20, 2009. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

Wendy Hamilton Snodgrass and her husband, Jeff; twin daughters, Callie Mae and Maggie Lee, on Dec. 18, 2008. The family resides in Clarion.

Shannon Haines Pirosko and her husband, Bryan; a son, Brady Joseph, on May 15, 2008. The family lives in Lawrence.

Nicole Beaver Williams and her husband, Ryan Williams ’02; a daughter, Brynn Nicole, on Nov. 7, 2008. The family lives in Baden.

Sarah Scott Ventresco and her husband, Tony Ventresco; a son, Anthony Thomas, on June 2, 2008. The family resides in Linden, Va.

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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.

1933
Helen Thomas Bair Owen of New Wilmington, Feb. 19, 2009. She taught in the public school systems of Sharpsville, Farrell, and New Wilmington before retiring in 1972. Survivors include one son, Thomas F. Bair ’56; a grandson, David T. Bair ’94; and a granddaughter.

1937

1939
Sarah Beitter Allen of Erie, March 25, 2009. For more than 40 years, she had been an organist in various churches in Erie and was the organist and choir director at Temple Anshe Hesed. She belonged to the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Survivors include two daughters; a son, Joseph B. Allen ’68; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Harry Wesley Shoup of Colorado Springs, Colo., March 14, 2009. A veteran of World War II, he had a distinguished 28-year career in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1968 as the wing commander of the 84th FIS at Hamilton Air Force Base. He earned the Soldier’s Medal for saving another airman’s life. Shoup was interviewed by Edward R. Murrow regarding his accomplishments in improving community relations as the base commander of Truax Field in Wisconsin. While stationed in Colorado Springs, Shoup initiated the tracking of Santa Claus on the radar and became known as the “Santa Colonel.” Following his military retirement, Shoup served as vice president of development at Westminster until he retired in 1983. Survivors include three daughters, Judith Shoup Hamigian ’64, Pamela Shoup Farrell ’66, and Terri Shoup Van Keuren ’70; a son; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1941
Elizabeth C. Grubbs Leggett of Lexington, Ky., Feb. 12, 2009. After her first husband, James—to whom she was married for 54 years before his passing—was called to active military duty and later declared missing in action, she joined the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) and was a graduate of the second class of WAC officers in WWII. She rose to the rank of Captain assigned to the Pentagon analyzing Japanese ship and troop movements until the end of the war. In 1945, learning that her husband—who had survived the Bataan Death March and four years of captivity in Japan—was returning to the U.S. via POW ship transport, she traveled in uniform to San Francisco to greet him at dockside. She was active with the First Presbyterian Church in Lexington. Survivors include her second husband, the Rev. Jack Sherley; two daughters; one son; two stepdaughters; and two grandchildren.


1942
Joan Thompson Whitman of New Castle, March 18, 2009. She had been a librarian at the Jameson School of Nursing. She also taught communications for Penn State at Jameson and the former St. Francis hospital. Survivors include her husband, Harry F. Whitman ’47; a daughter; and one grandchild.

1943
Ranse M. Jeffreys of White Oak, Jan. 23, 2009. He served as a staff sergeant with the U.S. Army during World War II. He had been a supervisor with the Pennsylvania State Employment Office. He served as an elder with the Sampson’s Mills Presbyterian Church. Survivors include a daughter and two granddaughters.

1945
Annabelle Hughes Dahlsten of Burlington, Iowa, March 5, 2009. She had been an elementary and high school science teacher in Burlington.

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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 when sized to about 3 inches wide). 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 May 15, 2009. Because Westminster Magazine is published only three times a year, significant lead time is required. Class Notes received prior to Sept. 11, 2009, will appear in the next issue.
Survivors include her husband, Herman; two sons; two grandsons; and a sister.

1946
Margaret “Pud” McLane Smith of Salem, Ohio, Feb. 15, 2009. She had been the director of public information for the Salem City School District from 1973-1989. Prior to that, she had been a news writer and columnist for the Salem News. She had been active with numerous civic organizations and the First Presbyterian Church of Salem. Survivors include her husband, Thomas; two daughters; two sons; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

1948
George E. Holy of Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 26, 2008. He was a retired lieutenant colonel with the United States Air Force. Survivors include a wife and two sons.

1949
William E. Hall of Mt. Lebanon, Dec. 14, 2008. An oral surgeon for 40 years, he served as president of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He was a deacon and an elder at the Southminster Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; two daughters; a son; two brothers, James Hall '54 and Robert Hall '50; and eight grandchildren.

Bryce Wylie Hawkins of Bradenton, Fla., Feb. 18, 2009. A banker for more than 30 years, he retired in 1995 as president of First Commercial Bank of Manatee County. He served in many community organizations and was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Charolette Akins Hawkins '50; three sons; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

1950

1953
Robert M. Smith of Hankins, N.Y., Jan. 16, 2009. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Rickhoff Smith; four children; 18 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1954
James G. “Jesse” James of Pittsburgh, Jan. 9, 2009. He worked for United States Steel Corporation more than 30 years and retired as the director of compensation. He was a U.S. veteran and fulfilled many service roles for his community including church lector, principal of the religious education school for St. Philip’s Catholic Church, president of the USX Credit Union and president of the Carlynton School Board. He was a member of Westminster’s first undefeated Titan football team in 1953. In 1995 he was inducted into the Titan Hall of Fame. An active alumnus, he served on class reunion committees and the Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee. Survivors include eight children, including Jim James Jr. ’79, Lou James ’80, Mary Pat James Hanssen ’84, Roseann James Nickoloff ’85, Sabrina James Lewis ’90, and Patty James Mutcher ’96; 21 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1956
David H. Sampson of Columbia, S.C., Jan. 20, 2009. He was retired from Springs Industries. Survivors include his wife, Jeanne Ray Sampson ’56; two daughters; one son; one sister; and five grandchildren.

1957
Ralph J. Straley of Fayetteville, March 13, 2009. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps reserves and later as an officer on active duty after graduating from Westminster. For nearly 40 years, he was self-employed in the commercial construction business. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Alvira Whiteley Straley ’58; a daughter; a son; and a granddaughter.

1965
Eleanor Rodgers Williams (M) of Greenville, Feb. 13, 2009.

1966
David R. Cochran of Las Vegas, Sept. 9, 2007. He was a retired pharmaceutical sales representative for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Survivors include his wife, Sharyn Cohen; two brothers, including Donald L. Cochran ’67.

1967
Mary Jane Royal of Palmetto, Fla., and formerly of Pennsburg and East Greenville, March 14, 2009. She retired in 2007 after a 31-year career as fine arts chair at Perkiomen School where she taught piano, general music, and accompanied the choirs and drama department shows. In Florida, she was a member of the Manatee Community Band. Survivors include her life partner, Wendy Wohltmann Brand '71; a sister-in-law; two nephews; a granddaughter; and two great-nephews.

1971
Robert V. Miller of Scottsdale, Ariz., Feb. 27, 2009. He had served with the U.S. Army Reserve and was promoted to staff sergeant. For the past 15 years, he was a contract underwriting specialist with Scottsdale Insurance Company. Survivors include his father; a sister; a niece; two nephews; and a granddaughter.

1972
Eric J. Gunn (M’77) of New Castle, Jan. 26, 2009. He was a teacher in the New Castle Area School District for more than 33 years, retiring in 2005. He was active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Lawrence County United Way. He was a founding member of the Operation Blueprint/Lazarus Group and the first African-American president of the New Castle Teachers’ Union. He was an active member of the St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church. Survivors include his wife, Roxann; his mother; a daughter; a son; a sister; and a brother.

1995
Melissa L. Miller of Mercer, Feb 27, 2009, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. She was a fifth-grade teacher at Farrell Elementary School. She also served as the volleyball coach at West Middlesex High School. She was a member of the Unity Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her parents; a daughter; two sons; a brother; her paternal grandparents; and maternal grandmother.

Friends
Liza Jane Green of New Wilmington, March 28, 2009. She worked in food service at Westminster College for 38 years.


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 Wiley Alumni House – Updates, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001, or submit updates online at www.connect.westminster.edu.

Name _________________________________  Class _______  Today’s Date ______________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________________________________________ State_________ Zip________________–_____________

E-mail address _________________________________________________________________________________________________

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: _______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

❑ 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.
To eternity and beyond.

That’s our message to let you know that the services of the Career Center will always be here for you…regardless of when you graduated!

- **Job Bulletin:** Would you like to receive information about employment opportunities? Let us know and we can e-mail you our weekly Job Bulletin.
- **Resume assistance:** Would you like someone to look over your resume? We are pleased to offer resume critiques.
- **Recruiters and networking:** When recruiters come to campus to interview, we often include alumni on the schedule. You are always welcome at our job fairs, and we will be happy to help you to stay in contact with others in your field.

We encourage you to keep in touch. We are always interested in what you’re doing and hope that you will let us know how we may be of help.

For more information, please contact Jackie Meade, Career Center director, at 724.946.7343 or meadelb@westminster.edu.

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### TITAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

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Nominees may include athletes, coaches, or anyone else who has made outstanding contributions to varsity athletics at Westminster. Nominations may be made by Westminster alumni and current and former Titan coaches.

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

**Justification** (attach supporting data if necessary):

- Sport(s) ____________________________________________________________

- Letters earned ____________________________________________________

- Awards, honors, accomplishments, etc. ________________________________

*Deadline for nominations each year is March 1. Nominees not selected remain on the ballot for one additional year. Please send nominations to Director of Athletics, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001.*
Westminster College

Concert Choir

2010 tour

Thursday, January 7
Concert: Faith Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA

Friday, January 8
Concert: First Presbyterian Church, Levittown, PA

Sunday, January 10
Worship: 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, NY
Concert/reception: To be announced

Monday, January 11
Concert: The Presbyterian Church of Toms River, Toms River, NJ

Tuesday, January 12
Concert: Amherst Presbyterian Church, Amherst, NY

Wednesday, January 13
The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie, PA

This is a tentative schedule. Concert times to be announced at a later date.
For more information regarding the concert tour, please contact Cindy Dafler at 724-946-7373.
For information on how you can support Westminster students through both current and future gifts, please contact Sue Rudloff at 724-946-7673 or rudlofse@westminster.edu.
Volley Rock Snapshot

The annual Volley Rock tournament, sponsored by the Student Government Association, is still going strong. A time for students to get together and relax before finals, students had a chance to spike some balls over the net, enjoy some buffalo wings, and take in a concert featuring J.D. Eicher and the Goodnights, You the Symphony, and Cartel.