KOOP COLLECTION

Also in this issue: Mentoring matters at Westminster
In all the years leading up to college, parents have the greatest influence upon a child’s personal development. That influence also extends into the realm of choosing a college, according to a recent national survey of first-year college students. The survey showed children listen to their parents far more than their peers, teachers, or guidance counselors when deciding which college to attend. It makes sense that the parental role would yield the strongest psychological bond for a child when making the most important decision of his or her young life.

But if the college experience provides a young person the opportunity to emerge as an individual and develop independence as a young adult, what role should the parent assume in permitting that growth to occur? Regrettably, far too many parents today fail to allow their children the freedom to grow by controlling their actions from afar. The term “helicopter parents” describes well-meaning, but intrusive, parents who “hover” over their college-age child ready to intervene at the slightest difficulty experienced by the student. By doing so, parents deny their children the opportunity to make their own decisions and experience not only the joys of independent success, but the hurt of inevitable failure. And as we all know, our failures often teach us the most.

Enter the mentor. Many of our faculty, coaches, staff, and fellow students at Westminster have served as an important “bridge” to our students during the period found between life at home and the independence following graduation. Providing guidance, support, and comfort when needed, these people take seriously their role as catalytic figures in the lives of those whom they serve, and I cannot fully impress upon you the impact they have made upon these young lives. One of the great benefits of a small, residential campus is the ability to really get to know one’s teachers and develop a new sense of identity and confidence, both intellectually and personally, that will provide a firm foundation into adulthood. Having also served at large research universities, I can tell you that in this matter, small is better.

This issue of Westminster Magazine features the theme of mentoring. Having a mentor can be an enriching and life-changing experience for the student. Fortunately for our students, we have a campus full of people who have served in that role admirably with some pretty impressive outcomes in the way they have enriched their protégés’ lives. While no one can ever take the place of a loving and nurturing parent, those willing to serve as mentors to our students provide a foundation for a student’s personal growth that will sustain them for his or her adult life. It is just one more reason why what we do is so very important.

Dr. Richard H. Dorman
President
Westminster Historian
Paul Gamble ’32 Dies
Looking back on the life of Westminster’s historian and former professor W. Paul Gamble ’32

Comprehensive Koop
Kathy Koop displays 40 years of artwork

Under Their Influence
Westminster mentors can take many forms: educators, classmates, coaches, and colleagues

Personal Commitment
Coach Rob Klamut’s days are devoted to others’ successes
Westminster historian Paul Gamble ’32 dies

Paul Gamble was many things to Westminster: an alumnus, an administrator, a writer, a teacher, and an historian. But, above all else, Gamble – who passed away March 22, 2010, at the age of 99 – was Westminster’s friend.

Gamble may best be remembered as the College’s historian, leaving his legacy by penning several books on Westminster’s history. In 2002, at the age of 90, Gamble wrote a new history, *The Westminster Story: 1852-2002, Glorious, Grand and True*, which was issued as part of the College’s sesquicentennial celebration.

A musician – he and his wife, Anna Mary, founded the Gamble Music School in Sharon – Gamble was a pianist whose fingers could tap out classical, jazz, and popular standards. As a resident of New Wilmington’s Shenango SeniorCare, he would entertain fellow residents with late afternoon duets with his wife. After she passed away in 2008, he adjusted his act and performed solo every day.

With Gamble’s passing, Westminster has lost a dear friend, and perhaps a host of other Westminster stories that hadn’t yet made it to print. The following article, written by former *Westminster Magazine* editor Patrick Broadwater, was originally published in the magazine’s winter 2002 issue. Here, we publish it posthumously, paying homage to a man that history will not forget.
This is the book Paul Gamble wanted to write. In many ways, it was also the book he needed to write. The Westminster Story, 1852-2002: Glorious, Grand and True is more than a historian’s straightforward recitation of the facts; it is the culmination of the historian’s lifetime association with the subject, both personally and professionally, and undoubtedly, the most comprehensive and analytical take on the College’s distinguished and sometimes tumultuous history.

“This history is one that I dreamed about writing,” said Gamble, 91. “I was afraid that I would never get to it.”

But good health and some help from his son, Richard Gamble ’63, conspired to allow Gamble the opportunity to author his fourth version of Westminster history. The first offering, Westminster’s First Century, was published in association with the College’s Centennial Celebration in 1952. History of Westminster College, 1852-1977, followed 25 years later. The latter was reprinted in 1992 and 100 of those editions contained “A Personal Perspective,” a supplemental first-person account that was to become the basis for much of his latest release.

The 275-page The Westminster Story examines the major storylines – both the successes and the controversies – as they developed over the institution’s first 150 years, stressing the interrelatedness of events and recurring themes. All from the unique point of view of Gamble, a 1932 Westminster graduate, whose family is as intertwined with Westminster as any other.

His father, William Dickey Gamble, was a graduate of 1896 and member of the Board of Trustees from 1924-44; his grandmother, Ellen Dickey Gamble, was a member of the first “real” graduating class in 1857; his great-grandfather, William Dickey, was one of the College’s founders. The list goes on, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, and later, sons, daughter, in-laws, a grandchild…all Westminster products.

Gamble himself made his first trip to Westminster by train as a 10-year-old boy in 1921 (see sidebar opposite page), and has since spent over 55 years in its employ – first as a part-time instructor, then later on the administration and faculty.

If nothing else, The Westminster Story is the outlet for all the first-hand knowledge stories, rumors and secrets a person can gleam of an institution over the course of a lifetime – the requisite passing of knowledge from one generation to the next. And the breadth of that knowledge is immense, considering that Gamble’s Westminster experiences encompass 80 years, eight Westminster presidents, nearly 1,000 faculty and over 20,000 students.

Yet for all he had done and seen – or more accurately, because of all he had done and seen – at Westminster, there was one outstanding project nagging at his conscience: an unrestrained, no-holds-barred narrative history of the College.

The previous forms were completely chronological, derived from Board minutes and published accounts. Largely they were reference tools, ill suited for continuous reading. They were also, Gamble felt, watered down, in that those volumes glossed over the troublesome moments in the College’s history. As he writes in the first chapter of The Westminster Story, “Westminster, particularly at the highest levels, has been no stranger to tension, conflict and struggle.”

Indeed. The Westminster Story recounts three major periods of instability in the College’s front office, each upsetting the tranquil and serene atmosphere most associated with Westminster. It was the previously unpublished details of these periods – many Gamble had witnessed firsthand – that led him to first pen “A Personal Perspective,” a document primarily intended for future College historians. However, President Oscar Remick persuaded Gamble to include “Perspective” in the versions of the 1992 edition given to the Board of Trustees.

A few years later, encouraged by Remick’s support, Gamble proposed tackling The Westminster Story. He enlisted the help of his son Dick, a financial journalist, in researching, reordering and rewriting practically everything that had previously been published. The final result shook off the chronological shackles of the earlier versions and attacked the history by subject matter, showing how events were influenced by preceding and succeeding incidents in the context of a continuous narrative, rather than merely ticking off each episode as it occurred year by year.
An Unforgettable Encounter With Westminster’s Grand Old Man

{Editor’s Note: This account was given by Paul Gamble’s son and collaborator Dick Gamble ’63 at a recognition luncheon preceding the launch of The Westminster Story, 1852-2002: Glorious, Grand and True.}

People who write histories are compulsive storytellers, so I have to tell you a story. One hundred and fifty years is a long time, and Westminster has a big history with a lot of big stories. But this is a small story about a chance encounter a long time ago between two men that lasted less than a minute and struck neither of them as historic. But maybe it was – you can decide.

It was a moment late in the life of Robert Gracey Ferguson. Ferguson was a wonderful 19th century figure. He fought in the Civil War as a Union cavalry officer, then went to seminary and became a Presbyterian minister before coming to Westminster as president in 1884. With his long flowing beard and love of learning, his formalities and his gentle, professorial manner, Ferguson was the epitome of the Victorian clergyman-scholar. He was president for 22 years, longer than anyone before or since. After he resigned the presidency, he stayed on another eight years as a member of the full-time faculty. After he retired from teaching in 1914, he continued to live in New Wilmington and enjoyed his role as elder statesman. People called him “Westminster’s Grand Old Man.”

He was so old and had been associated with the College for so long, some of the students thought he had probably founded the place. But that was not true. When Westminster opened its doors in 1852, Ferguson was a 10-year-old boy. But when he arrived at Westminster, some of the founders were still alive. Ferguson asked them questions and listened to their stories. After he retired he wrote down some of those stories and became Westminster’s first historian.

When the 79-year-old Ferguson woke up on the morning of June 7, 1921, he knew it would be no ordinary day. It was Alumni Day and he would get to see many of his former students. It was also the day in which Westminster would dedicate its fifth permanent building, a gymnasium that would later – much later – be known as Old 77. So Ferguson may have felt a little excitement as he got dressed and came over to the College, for many of his old students were in fact waiting to greet him. One of them, who had come back for his 25-year class reunion, had his 10-year-old boy in tow. And so, Will Gamble introduced his son to Westminster’s Grand Old Man. Paul Gamble found himself looking up at the twinkling eyes of President Ferguson, who smiled, bent forward, shook his hand, inquired about his studies, visited a little longer with his father, and moved on.

No one knows whether the old man ever gave another thought to that brief meeting, but we do know that the boy never forgot. Five years later, Ferguson was dead. Six years later, Westminster celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, the 75th anniversary of its founding. Seven years later, Paul Gamble returned to Westminster as a member of the freshman class.

During his lifetime, either directly or indirectly, President Ferguson got his arms around almost all of the first 75 years of Westminster’s history, felt it, and gave us a brief account that will live forever. During his lifetime, either directly or indirectly, Paul Gamble got his arms around something somewhat more than the last 75 years of Westminster’s history, felt it and gave us not-so-brief accounts that also live forever. And history determined that those two should meet, take each other by the hand, look each other in the eye and move on.

And so today, each of us, can take Paul Gamble by the hand, look him in the eye – or read his book – and feel just two degrees of separation between ourselves and the people who started this college so long, yet not so long ago.

{Almost 80 years after that historic meeting, Paul Gamble took part in another noteworthy encounter. After presenting a draft of The Westminster Story to the Board of Trustees, he stopped to greet a newly elected trustee seated at the large table. He bent forward, locked eyes with, and shook the hand of James M. Ferguson III, the great-grandson of Westminster’s Grand Old Man, Robert Gracey Ferguson. – Ed.}

“I would not have ventured on this as I was approaching age 90 without support,” said Gamble, who consulted Remick about bringing in his son for editorial assistance. “Oscar said ‘That’s a great idea, if you can talk him into it.’ So, I did and he’s been a tremendous help. We’ve both been very interested in trying to make this a reader-friendly history. It is quite different from the other histories, which were very chronological. This one is more topically oriented.”

Married since 1938 to Anna Mary Shaffer, whom he met taking private music classes at the home of W. W. Campbell, Westminster’s former music czar, the couple lives in New Wilmington and remains active in community, college and church affairs. They have three children: Richard ’63, Inalee ’65 and Robert ’74, and their spouses are also Westminster graduates – Karen Heintz ’65, Ross Dillon ’65 and Joan Hanna ’67. Also an accomplished musician, Paul Gamble’s other works include: historical dramas “Hail, Hail to Thee” (1952) and “Prologue to Tomorrow” (1958); one-act plays “The Last Brethren” (1974) and “Shadow on the Table” (1975) and the drama “The Continuing Revolution” (1976).
Applications

Westminster has shattered its application record again and has with a 300 percent increase in applicants since 2007. More than 4,200 prospective students have applied to Westminster College as of March 8, which is a nine percent increase over last year’s record-breaking year and more than three times the number of applicants in 2006-07. Westminster has also set a record with more than 1,100 prospective students visiting campus this year.

The prospective students boast a 3.5 high school grade point average in core academic subjects and averaged 1100 on the SAT, which is 100 points higher than the Pennsylvania average and 83 points above the national average.

The past two years Westminster College implemented a waiting list for admitted students due to the increased demand and is considering that option again this year.

Award-winning plan

"Advantage: Westminster" A Strategic Plan 2010-2020 won a bronze medal in the nation’s largest educational advertising awards competition.

The project was led by Westminster College President Dr. Richard Dorman and broad institutional representation characterized the formation of the strategic plan. Trustees, alumni, administration, faculty, staff, and students all contributed to the final document with more than 80 people actively contributing. Publications Director Betsy Fontaine Hildebrand ’92 designed the publication with input from President Dorman, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Gloria Cagigas, and Senior Director of Marketing Communications Mark Meighen.

The 25th Annual Educational Advertising Awards, sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report, is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. More than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. A national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals, and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report served as judges.

Westminster earned bronze honors in the “Internal Publication” category. Projects by Mount Carmel College of Nursing in Ohio and Antioch University in Los Angeles earned gold and silver honors, respectively.
students were named to the dean's list for the 2009 fall semester. 75 students earned travel grants to attend the 63rd annual Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Festival.
The case of the missing Thin Mints

When Thin Mint cookies wind up missing, it shouldn’t be too hard to figure out where they’ve gone. Or is it?

A fourth-grade Girl Scout troop worked hard one March day to solve that mystery – and more – at a Girl Scout workshop hosted by mathematics and science faculty. Aside from the Thin Mint case, the scouts also unlocked the keys to optical illusions and other puzzles – and earned badges for their accomplishments.

“The goal of this and future events was to expose girls to the excitement and career possibilities in the sciences,” said Helen Boylan ’95, associate professor of chemistry.

For the Science Sleuth badge, the girls learned forensics to solve the case of “Who Stole the Thin Mints?” Dr. Terri Lenox, associate professor of computer science and co-director of the Drinko Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, was the “prime suspect.” Techniques used included microscopy, DNA extraction, fingerprinting, casting of tire tracks, and composite sketch drawing.

For the Puzzler badge, the scouts looked at optical illusions, solved word search and maze puzzles, and learned how to win the game of Nim.

“The girls loved the problem-solving aspects,” said Dr. Carolyn Cuff ’78, professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. “They learned that scientists search for answers to many different types of problems.”

Community service recognition

The Corporation for National and Community Service named Westminster College—for the fourth consecutive time—to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for exemplary service efforts and service.

Nearly 65 percent of Westminster students volunteered last year, over twice the national average (26.4 percent of the U.S. population) and more than 50 percent higher than the national average for college students (42.5 percent).

Westminster students logged more than 26,000 hours of community service in 2009. Local organizations that benefit from student volunteers range from area school districts and children’s programming organizations to regional crisis shelters and literacy centers.
Hammering for Habitat

Candace Okello, Ashley Thiebaud, and Talia Hullum, from left, were three of nearly 40 Westminster students and staff who participated in this year’s Habitat for Humanity’s Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break in Birmingham, Ala. From February to April, Collegiate Challenge participants from across the country volunteered in 200 Habitat locations. In the past 21 years of the program, more than 168,000 Collegiate Challenge participants have volunteered with Habitat during their spring breaks.

Holcad writers win awards

Three Westminster seniors on the staff of The Holcad student newspaper are among the winners of the 2010 Collegiate Keystone Press Awards sponsored by the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association.

Stephanie Chaffee and Holcad editor-in-chief Shannon Richter earned second place in the Public Service/Enterprise Package category for any special project that exposed a problem or issue resulting in a benefit to the public and/or school. “A New Virus” alerted readers to a computer virus that was infecting PCs in a computer lab on campus.

Chaffee also received honorable mention in the Personality Profile category. “A Tribute to Our History” profiled Westminster alumnus and historian Paul Gamble on the eve of his 99th birthday.

David Lynch earned honorable mention in the Feature Story category. “Beware of the Lake Brittain Monster” described the large plant harvester that cleans Brittain Lake on campus twice a year.

The Holcad is a weekly publication. Dee Natale, lecturer in public relations, is the faculty adviser.

Learning to teach

Elementary education/special education students attended the Pennsylvania State Council for Exceptional Children meeting in Harrisburg in November. The future teachers attended sessions and workshops that covered topics ranging from mock interviews and special education’s top Internet sources to teaching social skills and functional behavior assessment. Attendees included, front from left, Ben Edwards, Carly Breletic, Ashley Faherty, Lauren Seiger, Dr. Susan Parker, and Dr. Amy Camardese, and in back from left, Nate Hunter, Addie Parker, Tim Wolf, Amanda Everett, Heather Merry, Kristi Webler, and Aimee Spicuzza.
Kathy Koop has had a rather prolific career as an artist.

The results of Koop’s nearly four decades of teaching, learning, and creating were on display this spring, in the “Kathy Koop 1973-2010 RetroSpectacular: Variations in Clay and Wood.”

Koop, professor of art, displayed a varied collection that included wheel-thrown functional ceramics—teapots, jars, pitchers, and bowls—and wall art such as large cacti, finely painted plates, and sculptures composed of altered cups and saucers. Also on display were representations of her most recent work, six large rustic chairs.

“It is an extraordinary privilege to share this large body of work with the College and the community,” said Koop, whose pursuit of art has taken her to Malaysia, Japan, and the Amazon to master and extend the techniques of others.

The exhibit also included three pieces from her first undergraduate ceramics class to illustrate how artistic talent and vision can grow with sustained work.

This exhibition was supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Koop earned undergraduate and master of fine art degrees from Indiana University. Her work is included in public and private collections and has been exhibited nationally and internationally.
Mentors can take many forms: educators, classmates, coaches, colleagues. Some you know for a brief while, some become lifelong friends and confidants. But whatever the role, however long they’ve stayed, mentors can make impacts like no others.

Orysia Karapinka—who was Martin’s Russian history professor at Pitt—offered lectures that Martin found inspiring, informative, funny, and fun, and he never missed an opportunity to hear her speak. But she was a demanding teacher and expected her students to work hard and be serious—and she was unapologetic about it. Yet, she was always there to help and advise her students.

“I look to her as a model of how to be a mentor at Westminster—to be generous with my time, to be demanding in my expectations, to work hard in everything I do, and to be compassionate and understanding through it all,” Martin said.

For Martin, mentoring becomes key to what he does. “At a place like Westminster, where the students are at the center of everything we do as a faculty and as an institution, mentoring plays a vital role.”

While Martin believes that “mentoring” is just another way of saying “teaching,” he is quick to point out that it is more than just instruction.

“Mentoring implies an involvement in the student’s academic career. It requires good ears—to listen to what the student is saying about her or his professional goals, and it takes experience and expertise on the part of the mentor in order to offer advice that actually helps the student get where she or he wants to go.”

A Russell by a different name, Russell Mills ’05, found that his Westminster mentor did just that.

Mills—who earned his undergraduate in political science—was an advisee of Ed Cohen, professor of political science, who offered some academically rigorous courses. Not only did Cohen offer sound advice on career choices, his demanding teaching style turned out to be great prep work for Mills when he went to graduate school.

Mills’ and Cohen’s relationship didn’t end at Westminster—the two remained in contact throughout Mills’ turn at the University of Vermont to earn his master’s and during his Ph.D. pursuit at Kent State University.
“As a mentor, Dr. Cohen has helped direct me to where I am today and has given me valuable advice and opportunities to further my career,” said Mills. “Just another classic example of why Westminster is so much different than other places.”

Junior Leigha Krivacek attributes much of her success at Westminster to the mentoring she has received from Jacque King, assistant professor of business.

While debating and campaigning for an officer’s spot with the Student Government Association (SGA), she received a lot of moral support and words of wisdom from her mentor. It obviously paid off—Krivacek now serves as the SGA president.

“He taught me to approach my personal and academic life with passion, and to balance that passion with helping others find success,” she said. With King, she adds, she is learning by example. “He is teaching me that kindness and perseverance supereede all else.”

Teaching by example, or “modeling,” as Martin calls it, is vital to mentoring. By modeling the seriousness of purpose, the respect for learning, the love of studying and discovering new things, Martin hopes that he will instill the same passion in his students.

“Enthusiasm is catching, and to display love for one’s work—to have passion—makes other people want to have that same joy, that same passion, in the things they are doing or learning or studying,” Martin said. By being the best professor that he can be—engaging in his discipline, being an active researcher, publishing frequently—is the best way for him to be a mentor.

And Martin’s passion for his work and dedication to research—from presenting papers on Russian history and culture to translating from Russian to English the official website of Maria Vladimirovna, the Grand Duchess of Russia—is certainly leading by example.

“Loving what I do models the very values we want our students to acquire,” Martin believes. “Strange and counter-intuitive as it may sound, I firmly believe that seeing me working successfully as a historian makes accounting majors want to be the best accountants they can be.”

Students as Mentors

Lurene McDonald, a senior public relations major, believes that in order to mentor student-to-student, you don’t need to be a best friend, you just have to “be there.”

McDonald has served as a mentor for three years through the Young Presbyterian Scholar (YPS) program. Each year, the YPS program enlists the help of upperclassmen “mentors” to help guide new students through their first year at Westminster. Today, McDonald has three students—a freshman, a sophomore, and a junior—that she continues to mentor.

“We teach the YPS mentors that they don’t have to be the closest friends with their students, but we encourage them to walk with each student in his or her journey at Westminster,” said Carey Ann Meyer LaSor ’86, YPS coordinator.

“We want them to be a presence throughout that first year—and see how their students are adjusting to college life, see how they’re making friends, if they’re making friends.”

YPS mentors have to be willing to listen to what the first-year students are expressing—and to pick up on what they’re not,” McDonald said.

It’s not about being a teacher, Meyer LaSor said of the YPS mentors, and it’s not about knowing all the answers.

“It’s about listening to the first-year students and accompanying them. It’s about being a friend on this campus at this point in that new student’s life,” she said. A good YPS mentor, Meyer LaSor said, could be the turning point between a student staying or leaving Westminster.

McDonald agrees and hopes that her mentees witness the enthusiasm and love she has for this campus—and hopes they eventually share an equal affinity for Westminster.

“Knowing I’ve had a part in changing a life, in opening a door, in introducing something new—that is why I get up every morning and climb behind the lectern.”

~ Dr. Russell Martin

“I want to help them find their place here and I really want them to be happy to call Westminster ‘home’ for the next four years,” she said.

Maureen McGinnis Ritchie ’90 found her mentor on her first day of freshman orientation in the late summer of 1986.

“I was sitting down to my first residence hall meeting,” Ritchie recalls. “Tracy Stuck ’88 was assigned to my floor in Shaw Hall as our Fresh Start student mentor. I can still remember her boundless enthusiasm and open demeanor as she guided us through college orientation. She was a constant source of encouragement, humor, and support as I started a whole new chapter in my life.”

From that first meeting, Stuck became Ritchie’s mentor, her “go to person” for support and advice.

“Her greatest lesson to me? Take risks,” she said. “Choosing the safe path is just that: safe. Tracy taught me that by taking risks, I will learn, grow, and challenge myself. She also taught me to look at any perceived failures as simply opportunities to learn, and to take those lessons forward.”

The lessons learned, Ritchie said, have been applied to many facets—career and personal—of her world. Twenty-four years later and Ritchie and Stuck remain friends.

“My years at Westminster blessed me with many gifts, but perhaps one of the greatest would be the happy coincidence that Tracy was present with me on my first day of college,” said Ritchie.
Alumni as Mentors

Sometimes mentors filter into lives as happenstance. Lindsay Painter ’06 was at a sorority service event at the New Wilmington retirement community, Shenango on the Green.

“I found myself in great conversation with a wonderful woman named Dorothy Pollock,” said Painter. “I’ll never forget the impression that she made on me during that initial visit. A vibrant woman with a warm smile and bright eyes, she spoke of years past and told stories about what Westminster was like when she was there.”

Painter felt an immediate connection with Pollock ’46 and hoped they would get the chance to talk again. Because Pollock volunteered in the Office of Development, she was a regular visitor to campus, and it wasn’t long before they began bumping into each other and the two quickly became close friends—and later, sisters. (See sidebar.)

“She is a true inspiration and mentor,” Painter said. “The countless hours that she gives to Westminster are invaluable. She has made the college a better place by giving back her time and energy so that others can reap the benefits.”

The best advice Pollock has given Painter is to “do what you love.”

“She sets a wonderful example for me to follow,” Painter said. “She lives each of her days to the fullest by doing things that enrich her life and the lives around her. Although we graduated exactly 60 years apart, I don’t think my college experience would have been the same had we not met. When I count my blessings, I count her three times: my mentor, my sister, my friend.”

Hopes and Rewards

When it comes right down to it, Martin’s goal as an educator and a mentor is to instill a love of learning and a sense of critical thinking in his students—to make them better lifelong learners, better employees, and better citizens.

“I hope to impart a sense that the truly learned person seeks the truth, following the evidence—the historical source, the quantitative data, the results of experiments—no matter where it leads,” Martin said.

But he also hopes that he has encouraged students to believe in themselves, because he feels every student can do more than they think they’re capable of doing.

That’s the way it was for Martin, who went from a self-proclaimed “very mediocre high school student” to graduating first in his class in college. If a lot is asked of our students, he said, they will find success.

“They will step up to the plate and hit the ball—not always out of the park, but well enough to get to base,” he said. “It’s a matter of respect—for the student, for the discipline, for the learning process. Students respond to it.”

Once those hopes are realized, the greatest reward as a mentor, Martin says, comes in the form of transformation.

“My greatest satisfaction has been to see a student change from when I met her or him, to when she or he walks out the classroom door at the end of the semester,” Martin said. Even after 14 years in teaching, the transformation can still manage to surprise him.

Martin says that perhaps the single greatest honor ever given to him came from witnessing the successes of former student, Nate Carlin ’01.

After taking nearly 40 credit hours alone with Martin—“he used to like to say he majored in Martin”—Carlin went on to earn his master’s in divinity from Princeton Seminary and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Rice. Carlin even dedicated his doctoral dissertation to Martin.

“This is someone who never dreamed of the Ph.D. or of an academic career. That dream came to him as a result of working with me and other Westminster faculty members,” Martin said. “He worked hard and made that dream happen. And that is the greatest professional satisfaction of all.

“Knowing I’ve had a part in changing a life, in opening a door, in introducing something new—that is why I get up every morning and climb behind the lectern,” Martin said. “That’s a daily reward this kind of job gives me, and I’m enormously grateful for that opportunity.”

(Hildebrand is editor of Westminster Magazine.)

My mentor, my sister, my friend

After hours of conversation, I learned that Dorothy Pollock was a Beta Sigma during her years at Westminster. When the Beta Sigs left Westminster in 1945, Zeta Tau Alpha, a national fraternity, was brought onto campus. The majority of Dorothy’s sisters lifted their letters and were initiated into ZTA. With it being her senior year, she decided against it. I was ecstatic to share that we still had ZTA. With it being her senior year, she decided against it. I was ecstatic to share that we still had awards and trophies from the Beta Sigma years in our chapter room and immediately invited her over to explore the treasures.

We began calling one another “sisters” because of the bond that we shared throughout our sororities. But there was still something missing. Through a lot of hard work and determination of our advisor and many other ZTA sisters, we were able to initiate Dorothy into Zeta Tau Alpha in the spring of 2007. I now have the honor of calling Dorothy my “Little Sister.” So on that day, it was finally official. Dorothy and I truly became sisters. A bond that each of us surely cherish.

—Lindsay Painter ’06
My mentor has been inspiring me since my first day on campus. While we were sitting under the trees discussing our book, my mentor showed up to introduce himself to our class. From that moment Dr. Jamie McMinn (psychology) has been a person who has changed my life. Inquiry was not a walk in the park for me; I had to work to expand my comfort zone. He held us to a higher standard, and for that I am grateful. Dr. McMinn made my transition to college much smoother because I was focused and dedicated right from the first day of college. Even today I push myself to work to the standard that he set for me as a first-year. A mentor to me is someone who pushes you to be a better person. Dr. McMinn had a part in making me the person I am today, and if I would not have met him, my Westminster experience would not have been the same.

Erica Conoscuito
Senior
Elementary/Special Education
Oakdale, Pennsylvania

Beth Brooks (student affairs) has been someone I could go to for anything at any time. She has supported me and encouraged me, and she has always offered her guidance. She has always listened when I just needed to talk. Beth has taught me the concept of “paying it forward.” She believes that life is about doing whatever you can to help anyone in need. If I ever have an opportunity to impact someone’s life the way Beth has impacted mine, I know I will be “paying it forward.” And nothing could be more satisfying than knowing I am able to help someone the way Beth helped me.

Travis Gulling
Senior
Public Relations
Canton, Ohio

There have been so many influential people here who have had a great impact in my life, but my greatest mentors at Westminster are those in the Chapel Office. Chaplain Jim Mohr and YPS Coordinator Carey Anne Meyer LaSor have led me on several excursions that I would have never thought possible—Malawi, South Africa, and several Habitat for Humanity spring break trips to places like Mullins, S.C., Biloxi, Miss., and Birmingham, Ala. They have opened my eyes to how others live and they’ve helped me grow intellectually and spiritually. They’ve helped me develop my self-confidence, and they taught me about expressing my thoughts and faith to a broad audience extemporaneously.

Katie Gray
Junior
Elementary/Special Education
Cheswick, Pennsylvania

“A mentor allows you to see the hope inside of you.” – Oprah Winfrey. If there were any words to describe the person whom I consider my mentor, this quote would be it. Jeannette Hubbard, director of the Office of Diversity Services, truly exemplifies that person. As a minority student on campus, I’ve been able to learn things from her that I can’t learn in the classroom. From her insightfulness and experience, I am able to apply the knowledge that she has given me as I pursue my degree and even after I enter into the professional world. She recognizes qualities that I possess even when I fail to see them in myself. She has taught me the importance of never doubting my potential and putting my trust in God. Her passion and determination to see me succeed has encouraged me to strive for perfection in everything that I do.

Candace Okello
Junior
Communication Studies
Youngstown, Ohio

There have been few individuals who have truly impacted me and made a difference in my life. As a senior in high school, when I first visited Westminster, I met with Dr. Dar Huey, professor of education and director of the Graduate Program. From that moment on I felt welcomed and excited to begin my college journey. Dr. Huey encourages students to strive for their goals and reach their ultimate potential. Dr. Huey is a man who possesses class, professionalism, and intelligence. His capabilities as an educator are ones that I strive every day to obtain as I journey towards becoming a successful future teacher. His teaching strategies and charisma in the classroom motivate me to strive for success.

Liz Valerio
Junior
Elementary/Special Education
Struthers, Ohio
There’s a “Far Side” comic that shows a psychiatrist with his legs crossed and mind wandering as he doodles “Just plain nuts!” on a notepad while a frazzled patient lies on a couch in the background.

Someone wrote “SWIM COACH” on the patient’s chest and now that comic is taped to the wall in Rob Klamut’s office at Westminster College.

Since Klamut just completed his 25th year as head coach at Westminster, there could be plenty of former swimmers so taken aback by Klamut’s incessant devotion to his profession that they would offer the comic as a tongue-in-cheek way to pay homage to their coach.

Hundreds of swimmers, all logging the twice-a-day workouts beginning at 6 a.m., were mentored by Klamut in the last quarter century. There are the 88 conference champions, the 36 All-Americans, and the three national champions. There are also swimmers who went on to achieve more, like Sean Swarner, the first-ever cancer survivor to reach the peak of Mount Everest.
While flipping through his mental rolodex to determine who gave him the comic, Klamut concluded that it was indeed Swarner. At that moment, a writer working on this article about Klamut wrote “Just plain nuts!” on his notepad.

After spending an entire day with Klamut, here’s what else appeared on that writer’s notepad:

It’s 6 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2. Klamut enters the weight room at Westminster appearing as if it’s his first day on a job. Six hours earlier was the deadline for coaches to submit their swimmers’ times for consideration in the NCAA Division III Championship meet. Swimmers with provisional qualifying times will be informed if they made the cut by 5 p.m. Friday. Westminster had five swimmers on the bubble and two with automatic qualifying times. Three would ultimately go to nationals held March 17-20 in Minneapolis, Minn.

On this morning, senior Maile Kirkpatrick needs to do her dry-land workout early enough so that she can student-teach at nearby Wilmington Elementary School later that morning. The six other swimmers vying for nationals come in an hour later.

“Our coaches are really here to help us,” Kirkpatrick said. “It puts them out of their way (to work around our class schedules) but their heart is really in the sport.”

“I love it,” Klamut said. “It keeps you going. Every day there are different workouts and different challenges. It’s great to see student-athletes meet their goals and it’s very rewarding to have such a positive influence in their lives.”

Later that morning, Klamut’s wife, Kelly, arrives with their 4-year-old daughter Stephannie before she heads off to Golden Hill Nursing Home in New Castle where she is a social worker.

Stephannie watches a few “Spongebob Squarepants” cartoons in her father’s office with assistant coach Pat Smith before she starts her 9 a.m. preschool lab across the street at the Hoyt Science Resources Center. Klamut reminds her that both daddy and Stephannie go to school meets. This week it’s the WPIAL Championships in Pittsburgh home and wishing them good luck for the upcoming weekend’s high school meets.

Klamut’s work is certainly not limited to holding a stopwatch and spotting his swimmers. The previous week he was promoted from associate professor to professor at the College. On this day, he teaches a 9:20 a.m. class, Level 1 Aquatics, and a 2 p.m. Lifeguarding class sandwiched around a sandwich, for lunch, and a 12:45 p.m. faculty meeting.

Klamut is also Westminster’s aquatics director and he serves on the NCAA’s swimming and diving committee, both of which required urgent phone calls on this day. A lifeguard took a false reading of 0.3 ppm for the pool’s chlorine level, too far below the desirable 1.0 ppm to allow swimming. Then there was a coach that missed the NCAA’s midnight deadline and another coach that was challenging a submitted time.

After Lifeguarding class, Klamut dissects video footage with senior Ben Gutmann to perfect his breaststroke form. Klamut sketches a stick figure on a piece of paper with its knee bent ever-so-slightly, thus causing too much resistance. He also demonstrated the proper “keyhole” shape that Gutmann needed to make between his extended arms above his head while pushing off the wall.

“He’s the fifth-fastest swimmer in the country,” Klamut said. “And we’re trying to make him the fourth.”

At 4:15 p.m. the seven swimmers returned for another workout—this time it’s in the pool and two hours long. Klamut plots their workout by listing their sets on a dry-erase board hanging from the pool deck wall. The workout is meticulously planned to lead up to the national meet so that the swimmers achieve the optimal taper.

A “taper” is as much of a buzzword for swim coaches as it is for barbers. Coaches have to enable specific tapering for swimmers so that they are fastest when it counts the most at the end of the season. For Klamut, that’s 44 different tapers for 44 different swimmers.

“That’s the most anxiety-producing part of this job,” Klamut said. “It’s what measures a successful coach, making sure everyone is reaching their goals. A small female might only need a three-day taper, but a larger male might need to start tapering four weeks in advance.”

However, it’s not a simple equation that you apply for each swimmer. A coach must also consider a swimmer’s personality trait and also if a swimmer is recovering from an injury. This makes knowing how to fluctuate the intensity and volume of training a difficult task.

After practice Klamut spends some quality time with his daughter before her 8 p.m. bedtime. Then he’s back on the job calling recruits at home and wishing them good luck for the upcoming weekend’s high school meets. This week it’s the WPIAL Championships in Pittsburgh that Klamut will attend.

Just before 10 p.m. the swim coach lies on his couch to reflect on his day. The writer now has another word scribbled on his notepad, one that a psychiatrist reluctantly uses:

“Committed.”

(Justin Zachal is the sports information director at Westminster College.)
1951
Barbara “Bobbie” Cloud has published a book called *By-Line*, which reflects upon her 55 years as a newspaper journalist. Cloud began her “temporary” career as a writer and editor for the *Uniontown Evening Standard*. She later spent 36 years with *The Pittsburgh Press*, followed by 15 years with *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Bobbie resides in Pittsburgh.

1959
Margaret “Margi” Vieau Pelowski retired after 21 years as a loan specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration and nine years as a secretary for ACME Book Bindery, a company owned by her children. She resides in Kenmore, N.Y.

1962
The Rev. John “Jack” Sharp was honored by the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), a Baltimore-based non-profit developer of subsidized housing and social service provider. Sharp founded the organization in the 1980s.

1967
William Carlton earned a doctor of ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary at South Hamilton, Mass., in May 2009. He is chair and CEO of Carlton & Co., a national fundraising consulting company based in Boston. He also serves on the Westminster College Board of Trustees. He and his wife reside in Osterville, Mass.

1969
Kenneth McConnell retired in June 2009 from the Karns City Area School District after 40 years as a mathematics teacher and department chairman.
legally returning faith to the classrooms. The resource is intended for public school teachers to incorporate into lesson plans. Francine resides in Jeffersonville, Ind.

1975
Diane Brown Davis earned a doctorate in education from Idaho State University in December 2009. She is an adjunct professor at the College of Southern Idaho. She and her husband, Randall Davis '77, reside in Jerome, Idaho.

Elizabeth Jones Collier earned a Ph.D. in organization and management from Capella University in August 2009.

1976
Richard Gmerek is an attorney and president and chief executive officer of Gmerek Government Relations Inc., in Harrisburg. He resides in Hummelstown with his family.

1979
Sheri DeMaris is a holistic health counselor and guidance counselor at Valley Forge Middle School in Wayne. She recently published a cookbook, Macro Magic for Kids and Parents, which teaches readers about macrobiotic cooking and eating well.

Mark Huber is releasing a CD of jazz piano standards. He is currently on the teaching staff at the Pennsylvania Academy of Music in Lancaster.

1980
Janice Wilson, who earned an Alumni Citation from Westminster in October 2009, was named one of Penn State University, College of Arts and Architecture’s 2010 Alumni Award recipients. A mezzo-soprano vocalist, Jan has performed throughout the country with dozens of orchestras and choral societies. She resides in New York City.

In this issue of Westminster Magazine we are sharing stories of Westminster mentors. Only a sample of mentor connections are highlighted in this issue—there are many, many more Westminster alumni who willingly share their time and experience. This willingness is a signature of our Westminster community, on and off campus.

Alumni share their time across campus from the Career Center, academic departments, and alumni and development offices to Audio-Visual Services, the athletic department and student affairs. They are involved in a wide variety of activities—serving as campus speakers, assisting with departmental outreach projects and project analyses, conducting Operation Impact phoning, hosting alumni and student events in their homes, planning regional alumni gatherings, serving on committees and more.

When we talk with alumni, we often hear of Westminster friendships forged since graduation. Meeting fellow Westminster graduates in the work place or when moving to a new community provides openings for new friendships or mentoring connections. Business owners often make an effort to employ or do business with fellow alumni.

Each fall alumni educators encourage qualified students to attend Westminster through nominations for the Jerb Miller Scholarship. Each spring alumni join in speed networking events sharing their professional insights with students. Offering internship opportunities is another way alumni support current students.

These personal connections, this willingness to support fellow Titans are what make Westminster unique. Let us know if you are interested in serving as a mentor for a current student. If you are interested in adding more Westminster connections to your professional network be sure to join the Westminster LinkedIn network. And remember, the alumni office is here to help you connect with students and alumni—just give us a call at (724) 946-7463 or send an e-mail to alumni@westminster.edu.

This wonderful web of support is what makes Westminster so special—it’s the Westminster Way.

Mary Cooley James '84
Director of Alumni Relations
1983
Zane Gizzi is the director of gift planning at Alvernia University. He and his family live in Elizabethtown.

1986
Bruce Bartoo is senior vice president of development for MedStar Health, a nine-hospital regional health system.

1987
Blake Lynn Byers Campbell earned a master’s in education from Neumann University. She resides in Aston with her husband and three children.

Karen Kuhns Schaefer is a pipeline controller for Buckeye Pipeline in Breinigsville. She and her family reside in Wescosville.

1988
Margaret Lonning Shreve is the owner of McKee Bridge Restaurant in Jacksonville, Ore.

1985
Deborah Platt Majoras has been elected chief legal officer and secretary of Procter & Gamble. Debbie and her husband, John, reside in Maineville, Ohio.

1992
Sany Saikaly is head of security and investigations for First Niagara Bank of Pennsylvania. A former fraud investigator for National City Bank, he received the 2009 Pittsburgh Financial Crimes Investigator of the Year award, given by the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Chapter of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI). He and his wife, Stephanie, and their son, Thomas, reside in Wexford.

1998
Steve Barr served as guest conductor at the Macho Mucho Music Festival at North Hills Junior High School in Pittsburgh in November 2009. He is director of choirs at Slippery Rock University.

Scott Hallam is the senior project manager at 3PC Media, a creative and marketing in Pittsburgh.

1999
Christopher Buckley earned a master of science degree in aeronautical and flight test engineering from the United States Air Force Test Pilot School. He was also promoted to the rank of major, earned the 2009 Onizuka Prop-Wash Award, and a Meritorious Service Medal for service in support of the war on terror. He is an experimental flight test navigator for the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base.

Erin Murray works for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemic Intelligence Service. She is assigned to the California Department of Public Health STD Control and TB Control branches. She resides in Point Richmond, Calif.

2000
Christopher Snyder earned his teaching certification in art education from Carlow University. He is teaching K-8 art in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He and his wife, Jessica, and their children reside in Pittsburgh.

2001
Nathan Carlin earned a Ph.D. in religious studies from Rice University in January 2010 and accepted an academic appointment in the Department of Family Medicine in the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He currently is assistant professor in the John P. McGovern Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit in the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

2002
Lindsey Braem is a corporate marketing specialist at PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., in Pittsburgh. She is pursuing her MBA at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh. She resides in Shadyside.

Veronica Porterfield earned a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology from Kent State University in December 2009. She is a postdoctoral research fellow in a neuroimmunology lab at Kent State, where she researches neuroimmune interactions, stress and behavior. She resides in Kent, Ohio.

Brandi Newell is an instructional coach for Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, N.C.
December 1

Erie

The Erie Regional Planning Committee met to discuss a 2010 summer event. Committee members attending: Cathy Sargent Mester ’69, Jessica Buckeye Natemeier ’98, Christine McCammon Palattella ’90, Jennifer Nygaard Pontzer ’90, and Beverly Bemiss Walz ’58. Watch for news on an upcoming Erie event.

January 10

New York City

John Weisel ’79, chair of the Westminster Board of Trustees, hosted a luncheon held at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan for alumni, guests, and Westminster Concert Choir members following the choir’s performance at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

February 2

Mars

Members of the Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee — Jim Giel ’74, Barbara Guffey ’70, Rich McKenna ’84, Phil Petraglia ’83, Becky Rickard ’98, Melissa Ruefle Spencer ’98, and Melissa Wiley ’00 — met to plan events for summer and fall 2010. Watch for some great upcoming events in the Pittsburgh area.

Upcoming events:

- May 15: Pittsburgh-area alumni volunteers will assist with Pittsburgh Cares organization for Hands on Pittsburgh volunteer event
- June 5: Pittsburgh-area young alumni will gather at Houlihan’s Restaurant in Cranberry Township
- June 12: Erie SeaWolves baseball game with pregame picnic for Erie-area alumni
- August 7: Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game followed by Skyblast 2010 for alumni in the Pittsburgh and Lawrence-Mercer counties areas (e-mail invitation only)

Regional Connections is compiled by Cindy Dafler ’03, assistant director of alumni relations. For more information about an upcoming regional event or if you are interested in hosting an event in your area, please 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 and Mercer counties, Clarion, Erie, and Pittsburgh areas in Pennsylvania. Please contact Cindy Dafler ’03 at 724-946-7373 or daflercs@westminster.edu for more information and if you are interested in serving.
Memories, Traditions, Friendships
A cluster reunion brings together three classes for a joint reunion celebration. If you’re a typical Titan, your student friendships were not limited to members of your class, but extended to fellow members of campus organizations, your major, teammates, or Greek organizations. Cluster reunions provide you with the opportunity to gather with friends from all of these areas in addition to your classmates.

How often will I celebrate my reunion?
Cluster reunions are celebrated every five years. For instance, in 2015 the classes of 2009, 2010 & 2011 will celebrate their 5th reunion. In 2020 they will gather for their 10th reunion, and in 2025 they will celebrate their 15th reunion.

Do class clusters ever change?
Class clusters remain the same until classes reach their 25th reunion, which is celebrated by individual classes. The configuration of clusters changes after the 25th reunion and remains in effect until classes celebrate their 50th reunion. Members of the 50th reunion class are inducted into the Golden Tower Society and are invited back to campus every homecoming. There are also 55th, 60th, and sometimes 65th reunions for individual classes.

Why does Westminster follow a cluster reunion format?
Cluster reunions began in 1998 in response to requests for this format recognizing that there are many friendships and even some marriages between alumni of different classes. Results of the 2009 reunion evaluation survey show that alumni continue to prefer the cluster reunion format.

When will my reunion take place?
Reunions are celebrated in conjunction with homecoming festivities. Young alumni interested in less formal reunions enjoy gathering on campus for a pregame luncheon. Classes of 25 years or more prefer reunion dinners, though some have opted for post-game receptions or open houses.

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Are you interested in assisting with your reunion festivities?
Do you have any questions regarding the cluster reunion schedule?
Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@westminster.edu or (724) 946-7362.
With Westminster alumni living across the world and the Internet connecting them, it is easier than ever to stay in touch, network with fellow alumni, and get the latest Westminster news. Westminster can be found on the following social networking sites, so log on and stay connected!

http://www.westminster.edu/facebook

http://www.westminster.edu/linkedin

http://www.twitter.com/westminsterpa

http://www.myspace.com/westminsterpa

http://www.vimeo.com/westminster

### WEDDINGS

**1978**
- Catherine Martell and Marc Stewart, May 16, 2009, in the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown (Ohio). The couple resides in Hermitage.

**1994**
- Jodi Groetz and Trevor Sproul, Sept. 5, 2009, at Trinity United Church of Christ in Canton, Ohio. Lisa Langsdorf Shearer ’93 was a member of the wedding party. Nichole Catarcio Columbus ’95 was a guest.

**2000**
- Megan Alrutz and David Moore, July 19, 2008, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in McDonald. Lori Zimmerman Rosensteel ’99 was a bridesmaid. Megan is a kindergarten teacher at Chartiers Valley School District. The couple resides in Bridgeville.

**2002**
- Debra McDivitt and Charles Pusin, Aug. 15, 2009, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Debra is a middle school special education teacher. The couple resides in Girard, Ohio.
Marie Meyers and Thomas Greene, June 13, 2009, at Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church. The reception was at Tiffany’s Banquet Center in Brookfield, Ohio. The Rev. Chris Weichman ’89 officiated. Bridesmaids were Amy Balderach and Allyson Parks, who also was a vocalist. Marie teaches in the Mohawk Area School District. The couple lives in Cranberry Township.

Kurt Rotthoff and Hillary Morgan, June 6, 2009, at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Columbus, Ohio.

Kimberly Schroeder and James Johnson, Sept. 20, 2009, in Mitchellville, Md. Scott Campbell ’00, Kate McCluskey Campbell, and Courtney Panik were in attendance. The couple resides in Annapolis, Md.

2003

Melissa Batulis and Sean Fullerton, May 9, 2009. Sarah Bowers Bartlebaugh ’04 was matron of honor. Other alumni in attendance included Gina Bessetti Reyes and Megan Monaco. The couple resides in Reading.

Emily Deah and Frank Monacelli, Sept. 12, 2009, at their home in Collier Township. Emily is an actuarial analyst for Dunbar, Bender & Zapf, Inc.

Natalie Krivonik and Nick Fetterman, Aug. 15, 2009, at St. Bruno’s Catholic Church in Greensburg. The reception was at Greensburg Country Club. Alumnae bridesmaids were Kristy Fetterman Berg ’03, Jacquie Lyons Demianczyk ’04, Maegan Martuccio, and Alana Schuring ’06. Joseph Switalski was groomsman. Natalie is a high school Spanish teacher. Nick is an iron worker. They live in Greensburg.

Philip McCann and Kristin Bintrim, Dec. 6, 2008, at Neshannock Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington. The reception was held in the Alpine Room of the SNPJ Recreation Center. Best man was Brian Andrews and Will Bretz was a groomsman. The couple lives in Churchville, N.Y.

Jennifer Piscitella and Kurtis Presnar, April 25, 2009, at St. Mary Church of the Mary, Mother of Hope Parish. The reception was at the Alpine Room at SNPJ. Maid of honor was Casey Lee Vargo and Lisa Schoch was a bridesmaid. Kris Harper ’81 was vocalist and organist. A 2009 graduate of the Penn State College of Medicine, Jennifer is currently performing a residency in pediatrics. The couple resides in Columbia, S.C.
Megan Sigler and Matthew Monaghan, May 30, 2009, at Westminster College’s Wallace Memorial Chapel. A reception followed at Avalon Golf and Country Club at Buhl Park in Hermitage. Alumnae participating in the wedding were bridesmaids Lauren Anderson and Laura Zorch ‘06. The couple resides in Bridgeville. (See also Class Notes.)

2006


2007

Kristan Kohley and Andrew Allen. Kristan is an account executive for Ketchum, a public relations agency in Pittsburgh. The couple lives in Butler.

2008

Melissa Sanchez and Nolan Schneider, July 11, 2009, at Neshannock Presbyterian Church. The reception was held at the New Englander. The couple resides in New Wilmington

Titan troubadours

The First Presbyterian Church in Levittown, above, was one of the stops during Westminster Concert Choir’s annual tour Jan. 7-13. The choir also traveled to Harrisburg; Erie; New York City; Amherst, N.Y.; and Toms River, N.J.

October 8, 9 & 10, 2010

Class Photo Schedule:

12:30 p.m., Berlin Student Lounge, McKelvey Campus Center

25th Reunion (Class of 1985)
11:15 a.m., McGill Library

11:30 a.m., McGill Library

50th Reunion (Class of 1960)
6:45 p.m., Radisson Hotel Sharon

55th Reunion (Class of 1955)
1 p.m., Witherspoon Rooms, McKelvey Campus Center

60th Reunion (Class of 1950)
1:15 p.m., Witherspoon Rooms, McKelvey Campus Center

Return for the magic!
NEW ADDITIONS

1988
► Albert Zenner and his wife, Gretchen: a son, August William, on Sept. 9, 2009. August shares his birthday with his maternal grandfather, Orville “Duke” Harris ’58. Albert is a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The family resides in Rochester, N.Y.

1989
► Keith Winkleblech and his wife, Tamatha: a son, Aydin Moore, on Nov. 18, 2009. He joins his brother, Austyn, at home in North Strabane.

1990
► Amy DiFucci Hruby and her husband, John: a son, Cayden Matthew, on Feb. 15, 2008. He joins a brother, Connor, at home in Los Angeles.

1992
► Vicki Knapp Halaja and her husband, Kevin: a son, Noah, on May 31, 2009. He joins brothers Caleb and Jonas at home in Kennedy Township.

1993
► Gina Lamendola McDermott and her husband, Todd: a son, Carson Robert, on April 15, 2009. He joins Neal, Abby, and Owen at home in West Leechburg.

1997
► Denny Wolfe and his wife, Janet: a son, Brayden Crosby, on July 31, 2009. He joins a sister, Avery, at home in Bristol, Conn.

1998

1999
► Teresa Hagg Masters and her husband, Brad: a son, David Augustine, on Nov. 12, 2008. He joins a brother, Eli, at home in Strongsville, Ohio.

► Teresa Hagg Masters and her husband, Brad: a son, David Augustine, on Nov. 12, 2008. He joins a brother, Eli, at home in Strongsville, Ohio.

► Dena Streit Noble and her husband, Ryan: a son, Jase, on July 29, 2008. He joins a sister, Claire, at home in Ellwood City.

Kelly Swadling Faust and her husband, Andy: a daughter, Brooke Ellison, on July 10, 2009. The family lives in Newark, N.Y.

Megan McCaskey Warzinski and her husband, Doug: a daughter, Sarah, on Jan. 13, 2009. The family lives in McDonald.

► Niki Johnson and her husband, Glenn Griffin: a daughter, Georgia Johnson, on June 18, 2009. The family lives in Uniontown, Ohio.

► Cindy Krause Kapr and her husband, Nathan: a daughter, Camryn Patricia, on Feb. 19, 2009. She joins a sister, Carly, at home in Mt. Pleasant.
TITAN TOTS

David Augustine Masters

Jase Noble

Sophia Francine Orrico

Kolby Aidan Schooley

Who do you know?
If you know an alumnus 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.

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.

E-mail nomination to alumni@westminster.edu or mail information to the Wiley Alumni House, Westminster College, 319 S. Market St., New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001. Please include the nominee’s full name, address, and class year and biographical information and accomplishments. Be sure to share what skills, energy, capabilities and attributes your nominee would be able to offer.

Future Legacies
Children of Kathleen Tudor-Delk ‘91 and twin sister Kris Tudor-Bates ‘91 are, clockwise from top left, Josh Delk, 15; Juliet Bates, 2; Lauren Delk, 13; Davis Bates, 4; and Jackson Bates, 9. Kathy is a legal assistant in Quakertown and Kris is a stay-at-home mom in Nottingham. All are grandchildren of Ray Tudor ‘60.
Elizabeth Hays King and her husband, Brandon: a son, Reed, on April 15, 2009. He joins a sister, Emma, and brother, Grayson. The family resides in Havelock, N.C.

Melanie Layton Collins and her husband, Ryan: a daughter, Emily Irene, on Sept. 24, 2009. She joins her brother, Simon, at home in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Kaitlin Ehrhardt Remensky and her husband, David Remensky ’00: a daughter, Abigail Elizabeth, on Nov. 7, 2009. She joins a sister, Caroline, at home in Pittsburgh.

Tracy Hamovitz Myers and her husband, Derek Myers ’05: a daughter, Alexis Kennedy, on Sept. 9, 2009. The family resides in Butler.


Sarah Stankorb Taylor and her husband, Michael Taylor: a son, Jackson Walden, on May 19, 2009. The family lives in Silver Spring, Md. (See also Class Notes.)


Kristin Karatinos Sanata and her husband, Jason Sanata ’04: a daughter, Mia Avery, on July 7, 2009. The family resides in Mars.

Rachel Hammond Marion and her husband, Cory: a daughter, Madeline Grace, on July 9, 2009. The family resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.
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.

1941
Jane McMunn Rosenberger of Pittsburgh, May 1, 2009. She served as a copy writer for a large New York City advertising agency prior to her marriage and returned to Pennsylvania. She was active with the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon for many years. Survivors include a son; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

1943
Evelyn Austin Mosher of Hamburg, N.Y., Jan. 8, 2010. She retired as a secretary for the family business, Harry Austin Milling Inc., in 1976. Survivors include two sons; three daughters; 12 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

LOOSING SEASON is a winner for poet Ridl

Jack Ridl’s recent book of poetry about losing has turned into something of a winner.

Losing Season, published in September 2009, has earned the 1967 Westminster graduate critical acclaim and attention. The Institute for International Sport (IIS) at the University of Rhode Island selected the book as the Institute’s “2009 Sports Education Book of the Year,” while noted storyteller and radio personality Garrison Keillor has read selections “Head Cheerleader” and “Scrub Dreams of Making the Last Shot” on NPR’s “The Writer’s Almanac.” Dick Gordon interviewed Ridl for American Public Media’s “The Story.”

Losing Season follows a fictional small-town high school team and its community in an experience lived out annually for decades across the country. It captures the perspective of a mix of participants—coach, players, fans family—and chronicles the highs and lows along the way. Divided into four quarters, like a basketball game, Losing Season traces the cycle of hope and disappointment as lived by the high school team.

Basketball guru Dick Vitale, sportscaster Jim Nantz, Sports Illustrated magazine writer Alexander Wolff, and commentators Digger Phelps and Tony Kornheiser have all contacted Ridl with praises following the release of Losing Season.

Ridl, professor emeritus of English at Hope College, is the son of legendary C.G. “Buzz” Ridl ’42, who led the Pitt Panthers to their first NCAA showing. He also led the Westminster basketball team to victory and also served as the College’s athletic director.

Ridl is the author of several collections of poetry including Broken Symmetry. In 2007 he was named one of the 100 most influential educators in the world of sport by the IIS.
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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 Feb. 5, 2010. Because Westminster Magazine is published only three times a year, significant lead time is required. Class Notes received on or before May 31, 2010, will appear in the next issue.

1944
Ruth Galbreath De Lair of Washington, Oct. 7, 2009. A daughter of Westminster’s seventh President Robert F. Galbreath, she was an elementary school teacher for 17 years, retiring in 1984. She was an active member of the Faith United Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her husband of 62 years, the Rev. Edward R. De Lair; a son; two daughters, including Patricia De Lair Cook ’70; a sister, Mary Galbreath Kidd ’44; 10 grandchildren, including William De Lair ’08; and six great-grandchildren.

1946
Jean Marshall Layman of Oldsmar, Fla., Jan. 27, 2010. She had been a teacher in the New Castle School District before moving to Florida. There she was a substitute teacher at Gulf High School for several years before retiring. She was active in the Trinity Presbyterian Church. Survivors include two daughters; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

1948
Dr. Donald Eichenlaub of Mount Jackson, Oct. 26, 2009. He served with the U.S. Army in India during World War II. He was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Dental School and held a dental practice in Bessemer for 32 years. Survivors include his wife, Marti; two sons; and a daughter, Jodi L. Eichenlaub ’78 of Mt. Jackson.

1949
Janette Diehl McLure of Akron, Ohio, April 22, 2009. The Rev. Donald Huston of West Chester, June 13, 2009. He was pastor of Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, Missouri, California, and New York. Active in social causes, he fought for civil rights for African Americans in the 1960s. In 1966, he organized a group of Christian and Jewish clergy and lay people to oppose the license renewal for WXUR radio station, owned by right-wing evangelist Carl McIntire. The group argued that the station violated the Fairness Doctrine by presenting programming that was “highly racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-Roman Catholic” and the station was denied license renewal by the FCC. After retirement, he raised funds for the Cambodia Trust, an organization which supplies prostheses for land-mine victims. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Jean; two sons; a daughter; two brothers; and three granddaughters.

Nell Young Herchenroether of Ben Avon, March 31, 2009. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Henry Herchenroether ’42; three sons, Richard Herchenroether ’72, Peter Herchenroether ’76, and Daniel Herchenroether ’80; three daughters-in-law, Susan Uhl Herchenroether ’72, Susan Suomi Herchenroether ’77, and Wendy Stroebel Herchenroether ’83; and six grandchildren.

William Wallis of La Mirada, Calif., April 26, 2009.

1950
Dr. Albert Caruso of Hermitage, April 16, 2006.

Patrick Gleeson of Upper St. Clair, Nov. 23, 2009. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served in World War II and the Korean War. He attended the Wharton School of Business. He spent 40 years working for PPG Industries, retiring as the assistant treasurer/general manager of credit. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Theresa; two sons; a daughter; a brother, Mark Gleeson ’49; and 12 grandchildren.

Dr. Rudolph Malandro of Scottsdale, Ariz., Oct. 23, 2009. He served in the military during World War II, attaining the rank of master sergeant. He was recruited by the FBI in 1955 for training as a special agent. He later earned a Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Pittsburgh. He taught at Ferris State University in Michigan and later Kent State University, where he become chair of the accounting department. Survivors include three daughters and eight grandchildren.
Alex Chambers of Wilmington, N.C., Nov. 17, 2009. He owned and operated A.H. Chambers Masonry Construction in Bethesda, Md. He served in World War II as a decorated platoon leader in an engineering battalion in Gen. George Patton’s 3rd Army. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Rebecca Carson Chambers; a son; two daughters; a sister; and a granddaughter.

Frank Darby of Marlton, N.J., Oct. 8, 2009. He served as band director and chairman of the music department of Haddon Heights and Haddon Township high schools for several years. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Survivors include his wife, Carol Keans Darby ’52; a son, the Rev. Alan S. Darby ’76; a daughter; a brother; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Marvin Konigsburg of Centerville, Mass., Nov. 4, 2008. From 1957 to 2003, he was the director of the Worcester Reading Institute and Teachers Store. Survivors include his wife, Dorothea “Debbie” Goldstein Konigsburg ’48; a son; a daughter; a brother; and a granddaughter.

William Paul of Zelienople, Oct. 13, 2009. He owned and operated Paul’s All Sport Spot in Zelienople for 32 years. He was a World War II veteran, having served with the U.S. Marines. Paul was honored posthumously in January when the Seneca Valley High School gymnasium was renamed the William F. Paul Gymnasium. Paul served on the Seneca Valley School Board for 42 years before retiring in 2007 and was an ardent supporter of the school’s basketball program. A former basketball player for Westminster, he was also a long-time member of the Towering Titan Organization Executive Committee. Survivors include his wife, Alice Lee Craig Paul; two sons, William Paul ’78 and David L. Paul ’82; a brother; and a sister.

Charles Pitcher of Bethel Park, Oct. 3, 2009. He was a professional artist for most of his life, although he taught art in the Pittsburgh city schools for eight years, was the director of education at Buhl Planetarium for six years, and operated the Charles Pitcher Gallery in Shadyside from 1970-73. Survivors include his wife, Susan; four sons; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

Phyllis Williams Griffith of Hagerstown, Md., Nov. 23, 2009. She taught in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, retiring in 1993 as a second grade teacher. Survivors include her husband of 58 years, John L. Griffith ’52; two sons; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

George R. “Dick” Wright of Evans City, Jan. 26, 2010. He was a professional civil engineer and owned Wright Engineering Services LLC. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Survivors include his wife, Patricia; two sons; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

Marilyn Calvin Comstock (M’70) of New Castle, Jan. 12, 2010. She was a second-grade teacher with the Neshannock Township School District. She was active with the Glen-Moore Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her husband, Earl; a son; a daughter, Janet Comstock Mancuso ’77; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Donald Lammers of Cortland, N.Y., Jan. 5, 2010. He served pastorates in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, retiring in 1994 from the United Presbyterian Church in Cortland. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Beatrice Martsolf Lammers ’55; and a son.

Paul Fenwick of Largo, Fla., Feb. 1, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was the principal at Tonawanda (N.Y.) High School for many years. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Mona Frank Fenwick ’51; a son; a daughter; a brother; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

Willis A. McGill ’33


Born in 1912 in Cleveland, Willis grew up in Cairo, where his father – the Rev. Ralph G. McGill, class of 1902 – served as a missionary and was on the faculty of the Evangelical Seminary. In 1926, when Willis was just 14, his father drowned while attempting to rescue children from the Mediterranean Sea. It was Willis’ father for whom the current Westminster library was named.

McGill graduated from Westminster College in 1933 and from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. In 1937, after marrying Anne McAuley ’37, he returned to Egypt, also as a Presbyterian missionary and seminary teacher. During World War II he also served there with the Army Corps of Engineers in 1942.

Representing the United Presbyterian Church, McGill’s missionary career in Egypt spanned more than 40 years. In retirement he served on the museum committee for cultural artifacts at Westminster, where he was a major donor and researcher of Roman and ancient Egyptian artifacts.

He is survived by three sons, Dr. Willis A. McGill II ’63, Jon Gibson “Gib” McGill ’68 and wife Merrianne Harding McGill ’05, and Gene Macolm “Kim” McGill ’70 and wife Kathy Offutt McGill ’71.

1951

1952
Wayne Rathke of East Aurora, N.Y., April 22, 2008.

Virginia Reehl Patton of Pittsburgh, Sept. 22, 2009. She taught special education classes and, later, tested children and adults for brain damage from injuries. She was active with the Southminster Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her husband and trustee emeritus, Robert F. Patton ’50; a son; three daughters; and 12 grandchildren, including Devon Patton ’09.

1953
Elizabeth “Betty” Mohnkern Nutter of Marble Falls, Texas, Dec. 8, 2009. She taught music in public schools in Ohio and Texas. Survivors include her husband, Daniel; a son; a daughter; and a granddaughter.

1955
Dr. Richard Barnhart of Natrona Heights, Dec. 27, 2009. He earned his Ph.D. in English from Carnegie Mellon University. In 1960 he began a 30-year career at Carnegie Mellon University, first in public relations and then for 18 years as assistant to President Richard M. Cyert. In May 1998, he retired as vice president of development for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He was active with the Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Mary Kathryn Neubauer Barnhart; two sons, including David Barnhart ’78; a daughter; and seven grandchildren.

1956
Glen Flinchbaugh of Butler, Aug. 28, 2009. He retired after 30 years with Armco, where he had been assistant to the human resources manager. He was active with the Faith United Presbyterian Church. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Powell Flinchbaugh ’59.

1957
Marianne Hoffman McElrath of Jamestown, N.Y., Sept. 16, 2009. For nearly 40 years, she dedicated her life to counseling in the Chautauqua, N.Y./Warren, Pa., region, both in the development and guidance of mental health units and as a private counseling practitioner. Survivors include her husband of 52 years, James McElrath Sr.; two sons; two daughters; a brother; and three grandchildren.

Jane Moore Walworth of Pittsburgh, Jan. 15, 2010. After earning her degree in biology, she worked at the Mellon Institute until 1954. Jane was a member of Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, delivered Meals on Wheels, and was a Pittsburgh School Volunteer for over 25 years. She helped form the Berkeley Hills Civic Association and served as a Republican Committeewoman. Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Thomas; two sons; two daughters; and six grandchildren.

1959
Robert Sleppy of Seminole, Fla., Jan. 28, 2010. He taught music and vocational education in the Finellas County Schools for 37 years. He also served as the coordinator of the Diversified Cooperative Training Program. For many years he was the pianist at Pasadena Community Church. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Marian Dewar Sleppy; a son; a daughter; and six grandchildren.

1960
Sally Brit Wilson of Lakeview, N.Y., Oct. 9, 2009. She taught math and science in the Frontier Schools of Hamburg, N.Y., and later served as the Christian education director of the Wayside Presbyterian Church of Hamburg. Survivors include two daughters; a brother; a sister; and a grandson.

1961
Gladys Horner Stauffer of Beaver Falls, Jan. 9, 2010, after a battle with cancer. Survivors include her husband, Dan; two sons; and two grandchildren.

1965
The Rev. Gervin Smith (M) of Butler, Jan. 3, 2010. He was a United Methodist pastor, serving pastorates in Fayette, Westmoreland, and Washington counties. He was a retired pastor of the former Lyndora Presbyterian Church, serving there for 12½ years. He also served as the interim pastor for many local Presbyterian churches. He was an English teacher and guidance counselor in the New Castle School District for more than 20 years. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Ella; two daughters; four grandchildren; a stepgrandchild; two great-grandchildren; and a stepgreat-grandchild.

1973
Daniel Parsons of Petaluma, Calif., Jan. 12, 2010, after a battle with cancer. He worked as an artist – watercolorist, craftsman, sculptor, contour artist, photographer – and taught art classes at a private elementary school. He was a regular contributor to Common Ground, a monthly magazine. After earning a second bachelor’s degree in geology in 1999, he worked as a geologist for Environmental Research Inc. He practiced Tibetan Buddhism. Survivors include his mother; a son; a sister; a brother; a niece; and two nephews.

1988
David Emig of North Canton, Ohio, Nov. 1, 2008. He was an independent contractor and realtor and previously worked for First Energy for more than 25 years. Survivors include his wife, Mary Beth; his parents; two sons; one stepson; a stepdaughter; a brother, John Emig ’84; and a sister.

1997
Mildred Cheers O’Brien Elder Satterlee of Somerset, formerly of New Castle, Dec. 2, 2009. Although she began studies at Westminster in 1937, she did not earn her degree for another 60 years. Over the years, she worked for Liberty Mutual and AT&T and served as tax collector for Wilmington Township in 1986 and 1987. Survivors include two sons; a sister, Aileen Cheers Sewall ’42; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Charles Burke of Oakmont on Feb. 15, 2010. A Westminster College trustee emeritus, Burke was elected to the board for two four-year terms: once in 1996 and again in 2000. He helped establish and was chairman emeritus of The Grable Foundation, a major philanthropic organization based in Pittsburgh. He is survived by his wife, Patsy; two sons, including Charles Burke Jr., a member of the Board of Trustees; and six grandchildren.

James McAuley of Enon Valley, formerly of North Lima, Ohio, on Tuesday, March 9. A longtime friend of Westminster College, Jim was the brother of Anne McCauley McGill ’37, wife of the Rev. Willis A. McGill ’33, who passed away Dec. 3, 2009. He was a North Lima businessman, establishing Alprod in 1962 and porch ‘n patio in 1972. He is survived by two sons; four grandchildren; and longtime partner, Irene.
W. Paul Gamble ‘32

W. Paul Gamble of New Wilmington, March 22, 2010, at the age of 99. Gamble, the College’s longtime historian, was great-grandson of one of Westminster’s original founders, William Dickey. He was the author of Westminster’s First Century, The History of Westminster College, 1852-1977, The History of Westminster College, 1852-1992, and The Westminster Story, 1852-2002. He served administrative posts such as the alumni secretary and executive assistant to the president. In 1966, he joined the English department as an assistant professor. He retired in 1977, but remained active as the College historian. Survivors include one daughter, Lee Gamble Dillon ‘65 and her husband, Ross Dillon ‘65; two sons, Richard Gamble ‘63 and his wife, Karen Heintz Gamble ‘65, and Robert Gamble ‘73 and his wife, Joan Hanna Gamble ‘77; six grandchildren, including Gregory Dillon ‘88; and two great-grandchildren. His wife of 69 years, Anna Mary Shaffer Gamble, died previously. (For more, please see page 2.)

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.

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❑ This is an address change.
❑ This is new information which I have not submitted before.
*Please state your zip + 4. Refer to your utility bills for this number.

For Office Use Only

Westminster College Magazine 31
Hillside Hall

Westminster’s Oldest Building (1885)

Hillside Hall, once called Ladies’ Hall, opened in 1885 and contained a music conservatory which offered a five-year music course leading to a certificate. Later, a five-year program of instruction in piano, organ, voice, harmony, theory and notation for those preparing to be performance artists and music teachers was added. The first music major graduated with a certificate in 1887. Later, a bachelor of music degree was conferred and extended retroactively to earlier music graduates. In 1906 Ladies’ Hall was enlarged and renovated to accommodate 129 students. This was financed by gifts from the Sixth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, the former pastorate of President Robert McWatty Russell, Class of 1880, who was the first Westminster graduate to hold the presidency (1906-1915). It was renamed “Hillside” in 1906. Until 1928, Hillside was Westminster’s only dormitory. In 1931, women lived there for the first time. In 2008, the Hillside lobby underwent a $60,000 renovation. Largely funded through gifts from the Ochiltree Foundation and the Parker Foundation, the lobby was dedicated in memory of Emma Ochiltree Sharp ’30, who served as a College trustee from 1970 to 1981, and was a trustee emerita until her death.

Fiction (or is it?):

Hillside has a long history of strange happenings. It is believed to be the home to Betsy, the ghost of Hillside, whose room is said to have been on the third floor of the annex. Several students have gone on record about sightings and other unexplained occurrences:

1998 — Four Hillside residents went to the annex to study. Hillside was being renovated and plastic was taped along the walls in certain doorways. One girl witnessed the plastic falling off. Behind the plastic, the girl saw hundreds of eyes staring at her.

2005 — Betsy still roamed the halls of Hillside, something that is believed to have occurred since before the mansion was converted into a dorm. Students also complained of other ghostly happenings: doors randomly opening and shutting in the middle of the night, lights turning on and off, music mysteriously playing from computers in empty rooms, strange typing noises heard, footsteps walking above the 4th floor.

2008 — Betsy was seen sitting at a computer. One girl claims she saw her bed glowing, another woke in the middle of the night to find her dehumidifier running—while it was unplugged. One resident claims to have witnessed her computer keys typing independently.

Facts:

- Hillside is the oldest building on campus. Construction cost was $25,000 plus $10,000 for furnishings.

- May Day was a significant spring festival, and the first May Pole dance was held on Hillside lawn on May 30, 1907.

- In January 1943, U.S. Navy V-5 air pilots arrived on campus for war training. The cadets were stationed at U.S.S. Hillside.

- The first governess at Hillside was Mrs. Mary Sampson from Allegheny City.

- In 1889, an unusual guest was housed at Hillside – a cow to furnish milk for the dining hall. Those with board jobs were early risers so they learned the fine art of cow milking. The cow was stolen one night and a horse owned by a well-known minister was left in its place. The cow eventually was returned and the girls could once again have rosy cheeks and strong teeth.
The Westminster Tradition.

Giving to the Westminster Fund is an important part of the Westminster tradition. Annual giving donors represent the foundation of our support. They provide financial assistance for student scholarships, enhance library resources, and enrich both academics and athletic programs.

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Early morning reflections

The tranquil mornings at Brittain Lake – with crisp air and lifting fog – provide the perfect opportunity for reflection and introspection.