INSIDE>>>HONOR ROLL OF GIVING 2016-2017
HELPFUL HANDS

Senior Alina Clough, a member of Westminster's Orientation Team, helps a first-year student transport belongings to her dorm room during Move-in Day.
photograph taken during the filming of “Field of Dreams” hangs on a wall of my office. A lovely gift, it reminds me not only of my favorite sports film but also of the powerful call to be a part of a team. In the film, the “Field of Dreams” represented a mythical place where the glory of the past converged with a present calling, resulting in the culmination of fulfilled dreams. What a reminder of the power of teamwork that allows individuals to accomplish together what they could not accomplish alone. I’ve heard many alumni and students tell stories about the impact Titan athletics had on their growth and development and the ties that still bind them to their teammates and friends—a true Titan heritage.

This truth about the value of team participation and teamwork transcends traditional athletics. Almost half of our students participate each year on a Titan sports team, and our goal is for each student here to participate on multiple teams—within classes, clubs, residence halls, co-curriculars, and service. Such collaboration certainly provides experience in technical and applied skills, and also in the “soft skills” that are so essential for personal and professional success: problem solving, cooperation, conflict resolution, goal setting, leadership, follow-up, and communication. As students collaborate, they will also gain practical experience in working with diverse others, differing agendas, and (sometimes) clashing egos.

Many stories within this magazine detail the variety of collaborative “teams” that involve our students and faculty. You can read about group service projects planned and executed by students in their First-Year Inquiry Seminars; students working with faculty and mentors on research teams and in internship settings; faculty teams that provide cross-disciplinary coursework and applied learning opportunities for students; and the work of the team of alumni and staff who plan and host such events as Homecoming so successfully. On the college website, you will find similar stories about the teams of students that planned and built the Tiny House; the group of students led by senior Christian Na and SGA Service Chair Liz Smith that raised more than $5,000 and many donated supplies for hurricane relief; and about the team of alumni and friends led by trustee Ben Nelson ’06 and his wife, Christie ’06, that presented another successful Professional Networking Symposium in mid-September.

These formal and informal teams and their successes demonstrate the power of collaboration and cooperation—skills that seem increasingly rare in today’s culture, and yet are in high demand. Together, individual talents are pooled to greater effect; together, knotty problems can be broken into components that can be solved. Mutual support and mutual challenge prompt deeper learning and stronger applications, along with shared celebration when goals are reached and victories are declared.

The “We in Westminster” tradition found here epitomizes such valuable practice. We do not just celebrate past Titan glories. The “characteristics, competencies and commitments” of teamwork and collaboration are alive and growing at Mother Fair. They are alive in the spirit and practice of Titan athletics; alive in the creativity and challenge of Westminster academic and student life; and alive in the support and commitment of our alumni. The glory of the past converges with a present calling, resulting in the culmination of fulfilled dreams. Teamwork is more than just a dream here—it’s a way of life.

Cheering that Titan spirit of collaboration and teamwork—
Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson
Westminster is the “Best College for the Money” in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region, according to USA Today/College Factual, a college choice resource that evaluates more than 1,300 four-year colleges and universities in the U.S.

Ranked at #1, Westminster was recognized with 32 badges for excellence in rankings based on value and quality academic programs. Nationwide, Westminster’s English literature and history programs ranked in the top 1 percent. Biology, accounting, communication and media studies, psychology and social science placed in the top 5 percent.

Westminster’s education and social science programs were acknowledged in top 10 percent, and business, management and marketing were nationally recognized in the upper 15 percent of “best value” and “most focused” nationwide. In addition, Westminster’s Division III women’s softball ranked 50 out of 351 total schools.


Westminster was also named a “Best Bang for the Buck” college in the Northeast region of the U.S. According to Washington Monthly’s 2017 College Rankings. Washington Monthly also placed Westminster in its “Top 50 Best Liberal Arts Colleges in the Nation” category.

As a “Best Bang for the Buck” college, Westminster is included in an exclusive list of schools that help students from low socioeconomic backgrounds attain marketable degrees at affordable prices.

For the second year in a row, The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education (WSJ/THE) College Ranking placed Westminster in the top 25 percent of higher education institutions in the nation. The WSJ/THE College Ranking measures resources, engagement, outcomes, and environment. Westminster scored strongest in the outcomes category, designed to assess how successful an institution is at improving their students’ life chances. Overall, Westminster ranked 249 out of 1,054 institutions.

Additionally, U.S. News & World Report included Westminster as one of the 150 best national liberal arts colleges in its “Best Colleges” rankings.
How Did You Spend Your Summer Vacation?

SUMMER DOESN’T MEAN DOWNTIME FOR WESTMINSTER’S STUDENTS, FACULTY

BY ELIZABETH FONTAINE HILDEBRAND ’92
with THOMAS E. FIELDS ’14 AND MEGAN SIMPSON ’19

It’s a common misconception that when classes end in May and all the final grades have been tallied and submitted, students close their books and faculty members lock up their offices, both not to be opened again until September. The reality is that learning and teaching don’t take a summer hiatus.

There is a lot of collaborating, learning, experimenting and teaching happening during the dog days of summer. Many students use the three-month period to participate in internships or research opportunities, while faculty members use their “summer vacation” to prepare for fall courses, conduct scholarly research either independently or with students, write, mentor students, and attend academic conferences. While there may be some lazy hammock days and fun-in-the-sun adventures, many students and faculty members agree that their scholarship work doesn’t end with the close of the academic calendar year.

“Hands-on opportunities in the summer are a great way for our students to continue to develop as professionals, to build their skill sets and to enhance their resumes,” said Dr. Helen Boylan, professor of chemistry.

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Summer research projects give students—and faculty members—the opportunity to have immersive research experiences that might not be possible during the school year.

Through the Drinko Center for Undergraduate Research’s inaugural Summer Research Fellowship Program, six students and their faculty mentors were given an opportunity to conduct research on-campus over the summer months.

From the mathematics and sciences disciplines, senior mathematics major Trevor Arrigoni and Dr. Natacha Fontez Merz, associate professor of mathematics, collaborated on a project entitled “Generalizing the Pill Problem.” Senior neuroscience major Bridget Herlihy and Dr. Deanne Buffalari, assistant professor of psychology, conducted research testing the effects of ethanol and methylphenidate on fear memory. Christina Robb, a senior chemistry major, and Dr. Jessica Sarver, associate professor of chemistry, researched the curvature effects on membrane binding of a protein using spectroscopy at the Saxena lab at the University of Pittsburgh. And senior biochemistry major Tristan Toca and Dr. Erin Wilson, associate professor of chemistry, studied how UV
damage to a protein in the eye is linked to the formation of cataracts.

Additionally, Tessa Altman, a senior English major, and Dr. Kristianne Kalata, associate professor of English, researched Anne Bronte and her progression as a progressive through her writing, while Alicia Clark-Williams ’17, who graduated in May with a degree in sociology, and Dr. Kristenne Robison, associate professor of criminal justice, collected and analyzed police-citizen interactions.

Senior environmental studies major Tia Kowalo also received Drinko funding to assist Dr. Diana Ortiz, assistant professor of biology, with a research pilot study at the Lomas Barbudal Biological Preserve in Costa Rica.

The pair spent two weeks collecting, identifying, and conducting host DNA analysis of blood-fed mosquitoes to determine the mosquitoes’ host feeding preferences.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships are the best ways for students to gain real world experiences, network for future job opportunities, and build upon skills learned in the classroom. The summer months—without the distraction of classes, sports, and other extracurricular activities—allow students to truly immerse themselves in the culture of the working world.

Anna Cowie, who expects to graduate in December, says her 10-week summer internship at Michigan State University was one of the best experiences of her undergraduate career and it allowed her to conduct research that a first-year graduate student might take on.

The biology major’s research project involved identifying genes that influence cold tolerance in the cowpea, also known as the black eyed pea.

“I had the opportunity to work directly in the field that I’m interested in, made great connections, and it confirmed for me what I want to do for graduate school and as a career,” said Cowie, who also counts learning to live in an new environment and meeting new people as added benefits. “I would highly recommend an experience like this.”

Senior biology major Austin Arrigo spent his summer with the Hillman Research Institute in Pittsburgh conducting significant research on platelet interaction with cancer cells. As one of the recipients of Westminster’s Spencer Davis Scholarship for students with unpaid internships, Arrigo volunteered at the institute and made new findings in his research.

Westminster seniors Tyler Heintz and Ava Hoag spent 10 weeks studying and researching gravitational microlensing—the deflection of light by the gravity of a star or planet—at the University of Salerno, near Italy’s famed Amalfi coast. Heintz
and Hoag worked under the world-renowned microlensing expert Dr. Valerio Bozza. Their research was funded by a $250,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant co-awarded to Dr. Thomas Oberst, associate professor of physics.

COGNITIVE PROJECTS

Dr. Joel Postema, associate professor of Spanish, and Dr. Sararose Lynch, associate professor of mathematics education, teamed up with seniors Oliva Schmidt and Tyler West to research and document the workings of El Centro de Formacion Humana in Sabaneta de Yásica, Dominican Republic.

Schmidt, a music education and Spanish major, and West, a Spanish major with a minor in secondary education, met with faculty and administration, observed classes, and witnessed the inner-workings of the school and how it fits into the broader context of education in that northern district of the Dominican Republic. From this experience, Postema and Lynch were able to identify and have begun to plan future travel opportunities for education students.

“I truly believe that there is much to be learned outside the pages of a textbook,” said Schmidt. “The things I learned that week in the Dominican Republic are things that I never could have fully understood had I just read them off of the pages of a book.”

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The months of June, July and August are also prime dates for national conferences and seminars in nearly every disciplines, and many of Westminster’s students and faculty were busy attending or presenting work across the country.

Anthony Akoto, a junior business administration major from Ghana, returned to the U.S. early this summer to participate in the Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) Career Prep Program in Dallas.

MLT equips African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans with the skills, coaching and connections they need to lead organizations and communities worldwide. Akoto had the chance to network and meet representatives from companies such as S&P Global, Goldman Sachs, LinkedIn, Google, and eBay.

Dr. Bethany Hicok, professor of English, spent three weeks of her summer at Vassar College leading a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seminar for college and university professors.

The seminar, “Elizabeth Bishop and the Literary Archive,” was held in June and focused on the Pulitzer prize-winning North American poet Elizabeth Bishop, her archive, and her extended literary and artistic circle. Hicok received an NEH grant of $105,400 to lead the seminar, which brought together 16 American and Canadian scholars.

And sometimes, the summer is not about presenting at conferences or conducting scientific research. Sometimes it’s simply about honing your craft and staying current in your field of study.
Peggy Cox discusses natural dyes at a summer workshop at McConnells Mill State Park.

For example, Peggy Cox, professor of art, attended a Cleveland workshop over the summer about using natural dyes in art, one of her areas of interest. She offered a hands-on demonstration about natural dyes at McConnells Mill State Park in July. Cox maintains a large dyer’s garden in the Nature Center Community Garden for use in her curriculum.

Dr. Shannon Smithey, professor of political science, taught a summer class, Comparative Criminal Justice, in London as part of Westminster’s cooperative British Studies Program with Midwestern State University.

Summer Zickafoose, assistant professor of art, was an artist-in-residence at the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in Newcastle, Maine, over the summer. Additionally, her artwork was featured in exhibits in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Montana, and Nebraska over the summer.

HONORS PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL TRIP

Twenty Westminster Honors Program students traveled to Greece this summer as part of their Honors Sequence after taking Ancient Greek Justice in the fall.

The course focused on the ancient Greek world and ideas of justice during the Bronze Age recounted in Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey. Students also studied the teachings of Socrates and Plato and famous archeological sites.

Honors Program students visit Greece during the summer.

Accompanied by Dr. David Goldberg, professor of philosophy, and Dr. Bethany Hicok, professor of English and Honors Program director, the students visited famous sites such as Athens, Samos Island, Delphi and Mycenae among other attractions. A trained archaeologist accompanied the group throughout the entirety of their trip to help them better understand the city and its antiquity.

“Each person in the class did a group presentation on a certain site, so we visited all of those sites during our trip to Greece,” said sophomore biochemistry major Troy Holden said. “In Athens, we visited the Agora and Areopagus. It was great getting to see the sites we researched.”
Everyone has his or her own personal reason for giving back to Westminster College. If you look inside the pages of the enclosed *Honor Roll of Giving*, you will see thousands of names, each with a different motivation to give a gift or volunteer his or her time. But one thing connects them all: their love and appreciation for Mother Fair.
There is an old adage: “Every gift of every size counts.” Westminster relies on gifts of all sizes to help support its mission. We look to our alumni—the new and “not so new”—to ensure that Westminster will still be here for future generations of aspiring Titans.

Your “vote of support” for Westminster—whether it’s $20 or $20,000—is crucial. A healthy alumni giving participation rate speaks favorably to foundations and major donors who say, “If this many alumni are contributing their hard-earned dollars to this institution, it must be a special place worthy of my support.” And those college rankings that come out each year (see page 3)? Alumni participation rates also play into how and where Westminster is ranked regionally and nationally.

With the recent creation of the new Titan Society, a giving club for those who joined the alumni ranks within the past 10 years, we decided to ask a few of our more recent graduates about their reasons for staying connected and why they give back to Westminster.

NOLAN RANDALL ’16

As a student, Nolan Randall was given the unique opportunity to learn more about the impact of alumni giving. As an intern in the College’s Office of Institutional Advancement and a member of the Senior Class Gift Committee, Randall discovered just how much Westminster depends on alumni giving and participation.

“I often heard students say, ‘I paid my tuition—that’s my donation,’” said Randall. “But what so many people, including myself at one point, didn’t realize is that tuition money only paid for so much in a year until alumni donations kicked in and finished paying for the rest.”

Randall, now out of school for more than a year and working for JPMorgan Chase & Co. in the Global Compliance Operations Department, has already made giving back to Westminster a priority.

“I don’t think I could have experienced all Westminster had to offer without the kindness and generosity of alumni,” Randall said. “Westminster offered and gave me so much during my four years: a great education, opportunities, and friends. I want to give back so other students have the same opportunity.”

HALEY BARGER ’15

Haley Barger’s recent gift to Westminster, a 6½-foot tulip poplar, was very poetic and unique, much like Barger herself.

As a student in Westminster’s English program, Barger spent many hours beneath an old white ash tree in front of Thompson-Clark. There she would study, build friendships, or simply be. But the tree—a victim of the emerald ash borer—was dying, and when the decision was finally made to remove it, Barger was heartbroken. This year, she asked if she could purchase a tree to replace her fallen one.

“Why I gave is not only because I believed that students should have a shady place to sit outside of Thompson-Clark, though this was indeed a factor,” said Barger. “I gave because Westminster—the place where my heart will always be, and where my old tree happened to stand—exists for me because others who came before knew what it meant to be a child of Mother Fair.”

Barger said that while many of her Westminster stories took place around her tree—“and when it died, I was crestfallen”—this year’s gift to the College wasn’t entirely about giving something as specific as a tree.

“It was not so much about giving a tree as it was about giving others—students, their friends, teachers, parents, and perhaps someday their children—the possible opportunity to have a special place at Westminster to make memories they can keep with them for as long as they live,” said Barger, who returned to campus during a beautiful fall day to plant her new maple. A plaque located at the site of the tree is inscribed with the title of Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass poem “To You, Whoever You Are.”
BRADY KEISTER HIMES ’15

Brady Keister Himes has warm memories of her Westminster experience and the relationships she formed, but says that without the benefit of donor support, her story would have turned out differently.

“If it weren’t for alumni who give to the College, I wouldn’t have been able to attend Westminster, receive a wonderful education, make lifelong friends, or meet my husband,” said Himes, who married The Rev. Drew Himes ’09 just a year ago. “Drew and I both made friends and relationships at Westminster that are immeasurably important to us, and it’s very evident that others feel the same way.”

Himes hopes that she can be that source of support for someone else wanting to fulfill his or her dream at Westminster. “We want to see others grow and form the bonds that can only be found at a small college like Westminster.”

Himes said that although she and her husband aren’t at a major gift level, it’s more about the spirit in which their gift is made. “We haven’t always been able to give much, but we give what we can. And we will continue to do so in the hopes that our children will grow up, attend Westminster, and carry on the gift of giving back.”

Brady is a clinical liaison for Exactcare Pharmacy, while Drew currently serves as pastor of Church of the Cross Presbyterian Church in Fairview.

ASHLEY (WILLIAMS) ’05 & BRAD PATTON ’05

The education Ashley and Brad Patton received at Westminster more than prepared them both for successful careers in their fields. And by regularly contributing to and volunteering at their alma mater, they hope they can offer support and inspiration to current and future students.

“Personally, I benefited greatly from scholarships,” said Ashley. “Gifts from alumni who had gone before me made it possible for me to attend Westminster. I think it’s only fair that I help pay it forward for the next generation of Titans.”

Ashley, who is the director of engagement for Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Computer Science, particularly enjoys seeing her donation dollars support women in the field of computer science.

“My Westminster experience was made better by the support of graduates who came before me. If I can help current students or new graduates get started, I want to do that.”

- Ashley Williams Patton ’05
“By 2022, there will be 1.1 million unfilled jobs in the tech industry. There’s a distinct need for programmers to help drive our economy. Unfortunately, though, students pursuing CS degrees or careers are overwhelmingly white and male. If we have any chance of meeting the demand, we need to engage more people in technology,” said Ashley, adding that the more diverse the perspectives used to create something are, the “easier it is for everyone to interact with it and the more resilient it is to real world usage.”

“It’s best for the industry to be inclusive, and it’s good for women and people of color to have access to these interesting, important jobs, too,” she said. “And I want to do what I can to make that a reality.”

Both Ashley and Brad agreed that Westminster is exceptional in preparing its students—female and male—for post-graduate experiences. Brad, who is a software engineer for eNetwork, said he was more than prepared for his chosen industry.

“I went straight into grad school with people from prestigious programs from all over the world, and I never once felt outclassed,” he said.

Just as financially supporting Westminster is important to Ashley, so, too, is donating her time and talent to the place that allowed her to explore her interests, make mistakes, and discover her passions.

“I volunteer for many of the same reasons I donate,” she said. “My Westminster experience was made better by the support of graduates who came before me. If I can help current students or new graduates get started, I want to do that. I’ve been really lucky in my career, and I’m happy to use that luck and success to help others if I can.”

AMY SCHRODER WINNER ’06 & ANDREW WINNER ’04

For Amy and Andy Winner, Westminster is more than their alma mater. It is where they found themselves, friendships, and each other. To them, Westminster is home.

“To quantify what Westminster means to us is practically impossible. It’s such a special place to us both,” said Amy.

Amy and Andy, grateful for the opportunities they were given and the experiences they shared, never gave a second thought to supporting Westminster. Because of their Westminster education, Amy said, both were well prepared for careers they love. Amy is a third grade teacher in the Blackhawk School District (Ohio) and Andy is the director of advancement and school relations with Portage Learning.

“That’s why it’s important for us to give back. When we think about current and future students receiving the same kinds of opportunities that we had, we are so happy to give back to help make it possible for them,” Amy said.

Andy also volunteers his time by serving on the Alumni Council and he relishes returning to campus three times a year to attend meetings.

“When I was asked to join (the Alumni Council), I really just jumped at the chance to serve and be among other people who love Westminster College as much as I do,” he said. “I look forward to our meetings every few months. It gives me an excuse to visit campus and a chance to connect with other alumni.”

“It really has become an important part of our lives and continues to be our home away from home,” said Andy.

Amy agrees. “I think we will always consider Westminster to be home for us.”

To learn more about how you can make a gift to Westminster, go online to www.westminster.edu/give.
FOR DR. ANDREW ADE, CONNECTION IS EVERYTHING.

As a 10-time professor of Westminster’s Inquiry program—a course for first-year students designed to introduce them to the liberal arts education model—Ade was searching for ways to show Westminster’s newest students just how interconnected and interrelated the people of the world are.

“As soon as they understand that, the smaller the world gets,” said Dr. Ade, professor of English, whose own worldview was shaped largely in part to his two and a half year Peace Corps stint in the Central African country of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

“I was trying to figure out how I could bring a part of my own Peace Corps experience into that class so the students could see how the rest of the world connects with us,” he said.

Ade had been self-educating about microlending—loaning small amounts of money to people in need—and its founder, Muhammad Yunnus, a Bangladeshi economist who in the 1970s created the Grameen Bank, the first viable lending institution for people with no credit or collateral. He earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his efforts to create social and economic development, and his 2006 memoir Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty resonated with Ade.

“I had lived that life in my village in Zaire. I saw the economic reality of its people,” Ade said. As he began preparing for his fall 2009 Inquiry class, Ade considered sharing parts of Yunnus’ book with his upcoming Inquiry class. He also was contemplating having his Inquiry students help him decide
where he should make his annual personal charitable contribution of $100. And then an idea was born.

Ade looked into Kiva, a microlending institution that facilitates small loans to low-income entrepreneurs and students in more than 80 countries. Its mission: to “connect people through lending to alleviate poverty.”

Connection. Exactly what Ade was hoping to achieve in his Inquiry class.

So, armed in one hand with a chapter of Yunnus’ book to share with his class and $100 in the other, Ade established an Inquiry project that is still being used eight years later by several of the course’s instructors.

**Kiva in the Classroom**

Ade’s first go-around with incorporating a microlending component into his Inquiry curriculum was a success. After dividing his class into five teams, he directed his students to the Kiva website where they could review all the potential borrowers and their case statements. The borrowers’ financial needs are small by American standards—$1,000 needed in Rwanda to buy peas to sell, a couple hundred dollars for someone in Cambodia to buy a lantern, $300 for a Vietnamese woman to build a latrine for her family, $800 for a villager in Myanmar to buy ducklings and duck feed for his farm.

“You see how very little it takes to help people in underprivileged countries,” Ade said.

Kiva crowdfunds loans so there are many individual lenders who contribute to each successful loan. Lenders can provide $25 or more to a borrower to help them reach their goal.

“My students came up with the most amazing reasons for investing in these people. They were really looking beyond just a one-sentence answer. They really thought about it,” Ade said. Each group presented two candidates for lending consideration, and after a class vote, the pool of 10 contenders was reduced to five. Two finalists were ultimately chosen, and Ade’s $100 became a $50 loan for each.

“So, this little personal interest thing became a way to take care of my donation, and the students loved the fact that I was turning over $100 to their hands asking them to invest for me,” he said.

Ade is quick to point out, however, that students weren’t selecting a charitable cause. They were selecting a borrower who would, in time, repay the loan with interest. “This gives people the dignity of taking out a loan and paying it back, which is the real pay-off, because there is a sense of accomplishment and pride,” Ade said.
“Ultimately, this is not a charity,” Ade said. “It teaches a business lesson. It gives the students online research about people around the world. It gives them an in-class presentation. And in the end, THEY are responsible for allocating funds. And they have to justify it.”

“I just loved more than anything to sit back and watch the group think it out. That’s when I think, ‘we’ve done our jobs.’ They took over the project. They did the research. They voted on the recipients. They debated the allocations. All they had to do was hand me the results.”

Ade was so pleased with the outcome of his Kiva experiment that he shared his experience with other Inquiry instructors. Dr. Michael Aleprete, associate professor of political science, took notice.

“I was looking for a way to expose students to the idea of global engagement as an essential part of a liberal arts education and to expand the set of readings with a global focus that were included in the Inquiry Reader,” said Aleprete. “Andrew’s activity was a perfect hook around which to develop this within the Inquiry curriculum. It also was an experiential activity. Students were making decisions that had ‘real world’ consequences, and consequences far from their immediate homes and experiences. It was perfect.”

Aleprete thought Ade’s idea would make for a great Inquiry-wide project. Other Inquiry instructors—there are more than a dozen Inquiry courses each fall—were invited to weave the Kiva project into their own lesson plans, but there was one drawback: the money source. Because the project stemmed from...
from Ade’s personal plan to donate $100 to a charitable cause, he was comfortable digging into his own pockets to provide the funding. But he certainly did not want to strong-arm other faculty members to do the same.

Enter the Rev. Jim Mohr, campus pastor and fellow Inquiry instructor, who saw this as a great opportunity to open students’ eyes and connect them with the underdeveloped world. And in 2013, to those who wanted to give the Kiva project a try, Mohr offered $100 from a fund of church gifts to be used for student mission projects.

“Not everyone jumped on board, but that’s fine,” said Ade. “I didn’t want to coerce anyone into doing this. Nothing is worse than enforced charity.”

But many did jump, especially after listening to faculty and student testimonials, and to date, Westminster has provided more than $6,000 in loans to borrowers in 36 countries, including the United States. And because of loan repayments and the interest earned, the project is now completely self funded.

Each Inquiry instructor has a different approach to how his or her class will use their $100—some choose one candidate, others choose five, some raise additional funds as a class to double the loan amount—but those who have participated have found the exercise largely successful in connecting students in New Wilmington, Pa., to those in need around the globe.

“I personally love to do this Inquiry activity,” said Dr. Diana Ortiz, assistant professor of biology. “It’s one of the best teaching tools I have in Inquiry. Through Kiva activities, students learn about real people living in other parts of the world, their personal economic challenges, and also learn how small loans can make a difference in their families and communities.”

“This project helped me see that there are so many parts of the world where people are in dire need,” said Nick Kearney, first-year biology major from Cranberry Township, whose group funded a borrower wanting to continue to feed his animals as well as a mother of four wanting to grow her small business. “This project opens up students’ minds to life outside of their point of view.”

Connecting with others “outside of their point of view” is exactly what Ade was hoping his students would experience. “This project can have large appeal across disciplines. If our students are going into business or international relations. Anything that involves financial transactions. Political scientists. Biologists. Zoologists. It all applies,” said Ade. “It’s all connected.”

Mohr agrees. “This activity helps expand their world view. They have to research the project, which includes researching the country. They have to give a class presentation. So, you’re not just learning about your project in Brazil, for example, you’re also learning about somebody else’s project in Kazakhstan. Students are exposed to so many global matters from world economies to world politics to hunger issues.”

In David Smith’s Inquiry section this fall, classmates elected to fund a borrower from Laos, whose case was supported and presented by, from left, Nicholas Iregui, Nicholas Stupar, Joy Snow, and Alexis Allen.

David Smith, professor of accounting emeritus, enjoys working the Kiva activity into his Inquiry class, adding that it “allows students to appreciate that there are many people who want to make their lives better and just need a little financial help to do so. And many of us Americans can help make that reality.”

Alexis Allen, a first-year accounting major from Hermitage and one of Smith’s Inquiry students, found reward in knowing their class project helped a village half a world away.

“It doesn’t matter that we don’t personally know each other, it’s the fact that we could see that they needed help and we were able to reach out our hands and let them know that they aren’t in this alone,” said Allen, whose group elected to fund a borrower from Laos looking to purchase TerraClear water filters for safe drinking water.

The experience was an eye-opener for student Ethan Hamill, a first-year broadcasting and media production major from New Castle, whose group selected a borrower from Seattle looking to grow his greenhouse business.

“Even though we live in one of the wealthiest countries on earth, there are still people here who go to sleep hungry every night because they don’t have access to nutritious food,” said Hamill. “What I loved about Kiva is that people can loan out a few bucks to someone on the other side of the globe and essentially change that person’s life. Generosity benefits everyone.”
President Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson has appointed two more members to her leadership team: Dr. Jamie G. McMinn and Erin T. Smith. The newest members were added in July.

McMinn, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of psychology, now also carries the title of assistant to the President for college relations.

Smith was named chief information officer for the College and is overseeing the marketing and communications department in addition to continuing her role as associate dean for library and information services.

McMinn arrived at Westminster College in 2003. He earned his undergraduate degree from Emory & Henry College, and his master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.

Smith has been with Westminster since 2002. She earned undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Tennessee.

“With Dr. McMinn and Ms. Smith joining the leadership team, we are truly prepared to take on several new initiatives at Westminster,” said Richardson. “Their talents, foresight, and leadership skills are welcome additions to our team.”

Dr. Jeffrey S. Coker, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, and Carlos D. Lassiter, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, joined the leadership team upon their hirings in early summer.
President’s leadership team in place

The Westminster College faculty welcomed several new professors to their ranks.

Dr. David B. Brauer, visiting assistant professor of business and the Scheller-Edwards Entrepreneur in Residence. Brauer holds a bachelor’s from the University of Pittsburgh, a master’s from Robert Morris University, and a doctor of business administration degree from Durham University, U.K.

Dr. Karen M. Dabney, visiting assistant professor of theatre. Dabney earned her Ph.D. at the University of Colorado.

Jane A. Dean, lecturer of special education. Dean earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Slippery Rock University. Dean had served as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Education since 2010.

Winifred M. Limmer, visiting lecturer of psychology. She is a 2006 Westminster graduate.

Dr. René A. Pico II, associate professor of education. Pico earned his undergraduate, master’s and Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. William J. Procasky, assistant professor of financial economics. Procasky earned his undergraduate at Dickinson College, an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M International.

Dr. Zachary L. Rodgers, assistant professor of chemistry. Rodgers earned his undergraduate degree at Youngstown State University and his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Don B. Schade, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities. Schade holds a bachelor’s from Susquehanna University. He earned his master’s and Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University.

Christopher A. Strangfeld, visiting instructor of theatre. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Geneva College.

Dr. Robert H. Zullo, associate professor of business. Zullo holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Virginia, another master’s degree from the University of North Carolina, and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

New full-time faculty members join Westminster
Goldberg presents Henderson Lecture

This year’s Henderson Lectureship Award winner, Dr. David W. Goldberg, associate professor of philosophy, offered his talk to the Westminster campus on Oct. 4.

Goldberg presented the integration of Nietzsche’s three historical perspectives—monumental, antiquarian and critical—and how they can be exemplified in Shorin ryu, an Okinawan system of Karate.

“Vibrant and lively martial art systems survive on this integration of the monumental, antiquarian and critical perspectives,” said Goldberg. “My contention is that without such integration, a ryu will stagnate, for life for Nietzsche is, as Heraclitus suggested so long ago, always in flux.”

Goldberg joined the Westminster faculty in 2002. He earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees from The Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. from Duquesne University.

The Henderson Lecture was founded by the late Dr. Joseph R. Henderson, professor of education emeritus, and his wife, Elizabeth, to encourage and recognize original and continuing research and scholarship among Westminster College faculty, and to afford the opportunity for faculty to share their learning with the academic community. Henderson served as chair of the Department of Education and as director of the Graduate Program.

Each year, faculty members may nominate themselves or others to receive the lectureship, which includes a stipend to support a specific research project. A faculty committee chooses the winner.

Partnering with Pittsburgh Promise for student success

Westminster has teamed with The Pittsburgh Promise to be a Preferred College Partner. Beginning with the class of 2018, Promise eligible students accepted to one of 19 area colleges partnering in this initiative will be provided grants for room, board, or books. Westminster promises to provide targeted transition and academic support services to ensure student retention and success.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a scholarship program for Pittsburgh public school students and advocates for improving the quality of education, increasing the preparedness and diversity of the region’s workforce. Pittsburgh has the largest Promise program in the United States. Since 2008, the Promise has awarded more than 7,300 scholarships worth more than $102 million.

RELIEF EFFORTS

After the destructive hurricanes of September, senior Christian Na, above right, and the Student Government Association (SGA), represented above by fellow senior and SGA Service Chair Liz Smith, organized a service drive to bring aid to the storms’ victims. The SGA and sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha collected money, clothing, food items, toiletries, diapers and other provisions to send to areas affected by the storms.

With matching funds from Westminster President Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson, more than $5,000 was raised to support hurricane relief.
Westminster joins elite undergrad research project

Westminster is one of only 12 institutions in the country to be part of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Transformations Project, a four-year project designed to create cohesive, research-based undergraduate curricula in biology, chemistry, physics and psychology programs.

Supported with funding from the National Science Foundation, Westminster is now among leading institutions pursuing school and college-wide transformations in student learning through undergraduate research.

“The project will support the integration of research into Westminster’s biology and psychology program curriculums, and the interdisciplinary neuroscience program and related molecular biology major,” said Dr. Karen Resendes, co-director of undergraduate research and associate professor of biology.

In addition to working with consultants provided by CUR, teams of biology and psychology faculty members will use the support provided by the grant to attend national workshops and training sessions. Funding has also been delegated towards conducting professional development at Westminster.

“Exactly what the outcome of our projects will look like will depend on the decisions each program makes on how to move forward when we meet our consultants,” said Resendes. “No matter how we proceed, the goals of the grant are to build on our current published successes in research in the curriculum and to make the transformations of these programs a model for growth.”

“This is wonderfully symbolic of our emerging national leadership in the area of undergraduate research, and experiential learning more broadly,” said Dr. Jeffrey S. Coker, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College.

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

Student Alumni Association (SAA) member Alex Cartwright, a senior, proudly displays her colors following SAA’s first annual Titan Tie Dye Run, a one-mile jog around Westminster’s campus. Along the route, alumni and student participants were powdered with dye. A portion of the proceeds from the event was donated to the Student Emergency Fund on behalf of each participant.
To ensure Westminster College graduates are well-prepared to operate in highly technical workplaces, professors Dr. Helen Boylan, Dr. Alison DuBois, and Brian Petrus are using a combination of their respected expertise to launch the Environmental Project Management Academy (EPMA) at Westminster.

As the world continues to make great technological and scientific strides, those trained to work in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) remain in high demand. But many employers have expressed concerns that STEM undergraduates, while well-versed in their disciplines, lack the critical soft skills to be successful in the workforce. STEM employers, on the other hand, are concerned about non-STEM majors lacking the basic scientific literacies necessary to succeed.

With this in mind, and after Boylan—professor of chemistry and program coordinator for the environmental science major—witnessed the positive results of environmental-science based service learning in her classroom, Boylan approached colleagues DuBois and Petrus and the concept for EPMA was born. And over this past summer, the trio learned they received a grant of more than $200,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund EPMA over the next three years.

Under EPMA, sophomores and juniors pursuing either STEM or business majors will work together on a semester-long service learning project with a community partner. Boylan will lead the development and delivery of STEM educational content and hands-on experiences for the students.

DuBois, professor of early childhood education, special education and counseling, is tasked with aligning the educational content and hands-on experiences with student learning objectives, directing instruction, and mentoring students on intangible

“Our students get the experience of approaching a topic or problem from multiple perspectives and disciplines. This is a valuable skill that puts Westminster students ahead of their competition in the workforce.”
skills. She will ultimately conduct the final assessment to determine the program for efficacy.

“Effective communication is critical during implementation of a project,” said Dubois. “Students will participate in a leadership seminar to develop their communication microskills—active listening, paraphrasing, questioning, and providing feedback.”

Petrus, assistant professor of business administration, will oversee student recruitment and developing the content for the project management aspect of the program for students. Using his 10+ years of business management and consulting experience, Petrus will also serve as mentor to students on business/project management.

Due to its interdisciplinary conception, EPMA naturally took shape as a cluster course—a combination of two courses from different disciplines addressing the same topic. Students in the program will take a semester-long cluster course including an existing 100-level environmental science course (Principles of Environmental Science) and a new 200-level project management course (Principles and Practices of Project Management).

“The cluster course requirement is one of the best examples of Westminster’s commitment to interdisciplinary approaches to education,” said Boylan. “Our students get the experience of approaching a topic or problem from multiple perspectives and disciplines. This is a valuable skill that puts Westminster students ahead of their competition in the workforce.”

In addition to the taking the cluster course, students will participate in a service learning project with a community partner—the first being a collaboration with the New Wilmington Borough. Students will complete a feasibility study on the implantation of solar energy in the borough.

“Because the borough sells electricity to its residents, it is uniquely situated to adopt green energy technologies,” said Boylan. “The students will use solar energy and weather data available at the College’s Field Station to make predictive models about the efficacy of using solar as a major energy source in this region.”

In year two, EPMA plans to collaborate with the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SWRC) to investigate the potential commercial applications of recovered minerals from treated coal mine drainage. Students will perform lab-scale demonstrations and studies for select applications, and eventually submit a report to the SRWC that will include cost analysis to enable the non-profit organization to evaluate future business ventures related to the recovered materials.

The third and final project is a collaboration with the Lawrence Country Conservation District (LCCD) to address the county’s storm-water management issues. Under the plan, EPMA students will work on a storm-water management initiative that will include plans for a rain garden. Upon LCCD approval, students will install the rain garden, with the assistance of New Castle area high school science students.

As Boylan, DuBois and Petrus prepare for the launch of EPMA in the Spring of 2018, the professors are busy recruiting students, hosting information sessions and working with their colleagues to ensure students are fulfilling pre-requirements before taking the EPMA cluster. The professors are excited to collaborate on a program that will not only prepare Westminster graduates for STEM workplace, but transform their students into confident professionals.

“We envision that the EPMA program will help develop a business-competent, STEM-literate workforce that has an understanding of the major environmental issues facing our planet, project management skills, and the interdisciplinary thinking required to address these global issues,” said Boylan.
Kelly Swiney, Westminster’s new full-time head baseball coach, sees plenty of potential with Titan baseball and has high hopes of knocking the program right out of the park.

Swiney, who was named the College’s 10th head baseball coach in July, brings a wealth of experience to the Titan baseball program. He has not only been a successful NCAA Division III coach for 18 years, but he was a Division III student-athlete who earned personal accolades and competed at the national level.

“We are excited to have Kelly Swiney join the Westminster staff as our head baseball coach,” Westminster Director of Athletics Jim Dafler said. “His coaching and recruiting experience and success in NCAA Division III, his familiarity with the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC), and his commitment to providing each of his student-athletes a positive college experience both on and off the field were important factors in his selection.”

Swiney served as head baseball coach at Allegheny College for the past nine seasons. In eight of his nine seasons, Swiney guided the team to winning seasons, including a trip to the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament Championship game in 2013. In 2017, Swiney coached the Gators to a 23-17 season, marking the team’s fifth consecutive 20-win campaign. Swiney earned his 200th career victory at Allegheny, making him just the fourth coach in the program’s 130-year history to reach the milestone.

Prior to his coaching career at Allegheny, he was also a standout outfielder for the Gators as a student. So, for some, the decision to leave his alma mater for Westminster seemed curious.

“I always looked at Westminster College as a sleeping giant in baseball,” Swiney said. “I knew there was the potential for the program to be great, and I wanted to be a part of that.”

“When I interviewed, I was really impressed by the campus, the people, and the plan for the future of the baseball program,” he said. “And the success of the other teams was also a factor in my decision to come here.”

In addition to Allegheny, Swiney also experienced success as part of the coaching staffs of fellow PAC schools...
Washington & Jefferson College and Thiel College, and holds a special place in his heart for Division III athletics.

“I was a Division III athlete and have now been coaching at this level for the past 18 years,” Swiney said. “These student-athletes are passionate and dedicated. They are not on scholarship, so they do all of this for the love of the game. They want to succeed in the classroom and on the field which they can do in Division III. As much as I like to win, it’s not all about wins and losses at this level. It’s about helping your players graduate and building relationships with them that will last a lifetime.”

As Swiney settles into his new role, he has high expectations not only for performance on the diamond, but in the classroom and on campus, as well.

“They need to be committed, hardworking, accountable, and great teammates. I expect them to be great students in the classroom and leaders on campus. And I believe that together we can make this program great,” he said, adding that he wants to add another conference championship to Westminster’s collection and compete at the national level.

The Westminster baseball program’s last PAC championship came in 2012, the same year as the Titans’ last PAC playoff appearance, when they broke the school record for most wins in a season (28) and clinched their first NCAA Tournament berth in school history. Westminster’s historic season ended in the elimination game of the NCAA Division III Mideast Regionals with a 3-2 loss against La Roche College. The Titans have won three total conference championships, including PAC crowns in 2005 and 2012.

One of the key tools necessary in building a championship program is recruiting, and Swiney understands its importance well. He recognizes that high school students have questions and are narrowing down their college choices, so Swiney and his coaching staff are quick to speak to recruits about the benefits of the entire Titan experience.

“I keep telling recruits it’s an exciting time to be at Westminster College,” Swiney said. “The vision and commitment to the baseball program by President Kathy Richardson and the administration really make this a great place to come play baseball and grow academically and individually. Baseball recruits have a chance to come be a part of something really special.”

The Titan baseball home opener against Saint Vincent is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

Prior to Allegheny, Kelly Swiney served as an assistant coach for two seasons at Amherst College (Mass.) under coach Bill Thurston. During his tenure, the Lord Jeffs competed in two New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) tournaments, with a runner-up finish in 2008. Before Amherst, Swiney spent time as an assistant coach at Washington & Jefferson (W&J), Thiel, and King’s College (Pa.). The 2003 Thiel team won the program’s first PAC title in 21 years, and broke the school record for wins in a season.

During his time at W&J, Swiney helped the team to a 66-28 record over two seasons including a school-record 34 wins in 2006. Additionally, the Presidents won the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Region Tournament Championship in 2005 and 2006. Swiney also served as the head coach for the Ohio Warhawks Baseball Club from 2005-2008, posting a 161-38 record and winning 12 tournament championships. In 2008, Swiney led the Warhawks to a National Runner Up finish at the 18U C.A.B.A. World Series.

As a DIII player, Swiney was a three-year starter for the Allegheny Gators in the outfield. He finished his career with a .356 career batting average, and currently ranks fourth on the all-time list in school history for doubles in a season with 17. He was named to the All-NCAC Second Team as a senior in 1999. Swiney was also a part of the 1997 and 1999 NCAC Championship teams; the 1997 team set the school record for victories with 40. During his playing career, Allegheny took part in three NCAA playoff-runs, including two regional runner-up finishes in 1996 and 1997.
Back in 1998, **SEAN SWARNER** ‘97 was in graduate school in Florida studying psycho-oncology. A two-time survivor of cancer, he wanted to dedicate his life to helping others dealing with the disease. Yet, deep down, he felt that something was missing.
It was tough,” says Swarner, who at the time was working on his doctorate while holding down three jobs just to pay the bills. “I started wondering if my life had any meaning.”

Swarner wanted to inspire hope in others who were battling cancer. But for that he needed a platform. And not just any platform—the highest one on the planet. “I wanted to find a way to share my story with the world. I wanted to let them know that, no matter how bad things are, there is always, always hope. That’s when I decided to climb Mt. Everest.”

And on May 16, 2002, that’s just what he did. After that he went on to summit the highest peak on every continent and reach both the North and South Poles, making him the first cancer survivor to complete the “Explorers Grand Slam.” He also completed the grueling Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii in 2008. (And did we mention he did it with only one functioning lung?)

“for anyone who has cancer or knows someone who’s fighting the disease, hope can be hard to hold on to,” says Swarner. “My goal is to give these people hope and to show them that truly anything is possible.”

Swarner knows a thing or two about beating the odds. When he was a 13-year-old kid growing up in Willard, Ohio, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkin’s lymphoma and given just three months to live. Miraculously, he lived. But then, just three years later during a routine check-up, he was told he had another rare and aggressive form of cancer called Askin’s sarcoma and was given just two weeks to live. Again, Swarner defied the odds, but only after losing use of his right lung and spending a year in a medically induced coma to help him deal with the aggressive radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

Once cancer-free, Swarner enrolled at Westminster College, where he majored in molecular biology before switching to psychology his junior year. “I loved my time at Westminster,” he says. “I loved how close the students were. I also liked how it was a smaller school and more community related. It seemed like everyone was friends with everyone.”

In addition to being a pole vaulter for the Titan track & field team, Swarner was also a member and student assistant of the swim team, despite having only one latissimus dorsi muscle; the other was cut out during surgery. “My coach always joked that I swam in circles,” he says.

Sean Swarner ’97 at the top of the world, the North Pole.
Swarner, who’s been interviewed by Steve Harvey, “CBS Evening News,” “The Today Show,” “Good Morning America,” “Outside the Lines,” “SportsCenter,” The Washington Post and many others, says one of the most valuable skills he learned at Westminster was how to communicate effectively. “As a motivational speaker for clients like IBM, the New York Giants, St. Jude’s Hospital and countless others, the skills I learned as an undergrad have been extremely valuable. It was definitely the right school for me.”

In 2001, Swarner and his brother Seth founded The CancerClimber Association (cancerclimber.org), which serves “to give other survivors the opportunity to live adventurously and instill hope within the cancer community.” Through the association, he’s raised well over $100,000 to help find a cure and drive awareness for the disease.

During his most recent adventure to the North Pole this past April, where he endured temperatures of -80 degrees, Swarner raised more than $30,000 through donations given to philanthropic charities. He also brought along a flag on which was printed the word “HOPE” along with the names of close to 2,000 people affected by cancer. “I wanted to spread my message of healing and triumph to those who need it most, raising funds and awareness along the way. In effect, I brought all these people with me to the top of the world.”

Swarner has penned two books about his challenges and adventures: Keep Climbing: How I Beat Cancer and Reached the Top of the World (2007), and EVEREST: Being Unstoppable (2016), the first book in his “7 Summits to Success Series.” The second installment, which focuses on Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa’s tallest peak, is due out this winter. Each year he makes a trip up the mountain—so far he’s climbed it 13 times—and his association pays for a cancer survivor to climb it with them. Last year it was fellow Westminster alum Dan Arnett ’01, who beat Stage 4 Hodgkins lymphoma in 2016 following a nearly two-year-long battle.

Recently Swarner endured two more life-threatening challenges, but not by his own choice, as he faced Hurricane’s Irma and Maria while at his fiancé Julissa’s home in Puerto Rico. “After the first hurricane,” he says, “we had no electric for two weeks. We got it back for two days before the next one hit.” As Hurricane Maria intensified in the Atlantic, Swarner and his fiancé decided it was best to return to the mainland. But it wasn’t easy. “We spent 10 hours in line at security just trying to get out. Fortunately, we were able to get out on one of the last flights. Now we’re just trying to do what we can to help the people of Puerto Rico.”

So, what does one do next after beating cancer twice, scaling the world’s highest peaks, trekking to both poles, and completing an Ironman? Go to outer space, of course. Currently Swarner is hoping to be one of a handful of people selected by the non-profit Space for Humanity, which is looking for a group of non-astronauts to travel to the edge of space by the end of 2018.

“After everything I’ve done,” says Swarner, “it just seems like the next logical step.”

For more information on Sean and to support his effort to get to outer space, visit SeanSwarner.com.
This year’s Titan Sports Hall of Fame inductees are, from left, Mark Huber ’79, Rob Klamut, Denny Flora ’99, Mark DeMonaco ’06, and Adam Hadbavny ’06.

MARK DeMONACO ’06, BASKETBALL
Mark DeMonaco ’06 was a three-time All-Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) First Team selection for the Titan men’s basketball team. A three-year letterman, DeMonaco was the team captain during his senior year. He played an integral role on the Westminster team that won the PAC Championship in 2004. DeMonaco was also named on the D3Hoops.com All-Great Lakes Region Third Team and was an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Southern Region Honorable Mention honoree. Additionally, he earned College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District II College Division Men’s Basketball Third Team honors as a senior and PAC Player of the Week multiple times during his career. DeMonaco was also named to the 60th Anniversary All-PAC Men’s Basketball Team. His 1,550 career points rank seventh all-time in school history, while his career three-pointers made (295) stands third and his career assists (365) sits fourth. He also holds the single-game school-record for most three-point field goals with 11.

DENNY FLORA ’99, FOOTBALL
Denny Flora ’99, a four-year letterman and starter for the Titan football team, was a member of three National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) playoff teams. As a senior, Flora was an All-Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference (MIFC) Second Team honoree and an All-Mid-States Football Association First Team honoree. Flora is among a small group of former Titan football players who was a starter in his first game in a Westminster uniform. Flora ranks fourth all-time in school history in total rushing yards (3,283) and rushing touchdowns (33).

ADAM HADBAVNY ’06, TRACK & FIELD/FOOTBALL
Adam Hadbavny ’06 earned seven total letters at Westminster—four in track & field and three in football. In track & field, he was a five-time PAC champion, three times in the discus and twice in the shot put, and set school records in the indoor shot put (48 feet 7¼ inches) and discus (168 feet and 3 inches) that still stand. Hadbavny was named the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Mid-East Region Field Athlete of the Year as a senior, the same year that he qualified for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships. He was the first Titan male and second Titan ever to qualify for the NCAA Division III National Championship Meet. As a junior, he was an ECAC and an NCAA National Meet Provisional Qualifier. A two-time Team MVP in track & field, Hadbavny was the first Titan male and second Titan ever to qualify for the NCAA Division III National Championship Meet. As a junior, he was an ECAC and an NCAA National Meet Provisional Qualifier. A two-time Team MVP in track & field, Hadbavny was a multiple PAC and ECAC Track & Field Athlete of the Week and PAC Academic Honor Roll award recipient. In football, he was a two-year starter at defensive end, earning All-PAC Second Team honors as a senior. Hadbavny earned CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team honors, was a semi-finalist for the National Football Foundation (NFF) Draddy Trophy, and was a candidate for the NFF National Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. As a senior, Hadbavny received the David B. Fawcett Award, given annually to honor the top Westminster senior male student-athlete who best exemplifies the qualities of fairness, sportsmanship, leadership, determination and competitiveness. He was also named on the 60th Anniversary All-PAC Track & Field Team.

TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE TITAN ATHLETIC NEWS, GO TO www.westminster.edu/athletics
MARK HUBER ’79, SWIMMING & DIVING
Mark Huber ’79, a four-year letterman for the swimming & diving team, was also a two-time team captain. Huber was a five-time NAIA All-American, in three individual and two relay events. He was one of four Titan swimmers to be Westminster’s first-ever NAIA All-Americans in program history. As a freshman, he was the first-ever Westminster swimmer to qualify for the NAIA National Meet, the same year he broke seven school records. He added his eighth school record as a sophomore. He was the first Titan swimmer to hold eight different school records at one time; he held four school records (two individual, two relay) at the end of his career. He posted 13 top-six finishes at the Penn-Ohio Meet during his career. He helped guide Westminster to a 31-10 record during his career, which included the team’s first dual meet win over Grove City College in 40 years. The Titans also had the highest finish in school history (second) at the Penn-Ohio Conference Meet in Huber’s senior year.

ROB Klamut, COACHING
Rob Klamut compiled an overall dual meet record of 445-182-2 in 31 years as the head coach of the Westminster men’s and women’s swimming & diving teams. Klamut’s men’s teams won 11 conference championships, while the women’s team won six conference titles. Klamut was named the PAC Swimming & Diving Coach of the Year 14 times (nine for the men’s team, and five for the women’s). He coached three national champions, 85 NAIA and 13 NCAA Division III All-Americans, and 154 conference champions, to go along with several scholar-athletes and all-academic team members. In addition to his coaching responsibilities at Westminster, Klamut was the chairman of the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Committee and served in similar capacities for the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA), the NAIA and the Penn-Ohio Conference.

Richardson chairing the PAC Presidents’ Council
Westminster President Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson is serving as the chair of the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) Presidents’ Council for the 2017-18 academic year.

The Presidents’ Council holds ultimate authority and responsibility for PAC governance. The Presidents’ Council is responsible for the establishment, direction, and if necessary, the enforcement of general policy, including the conference office’s annual budget and all other financial matters.

“The Division III values of excellence in academics, athleticism, integrity and inclusion are strongly supported by the conference, and it is a pleasure to work with the PAC’s institutional leadership to continue to promote the holistic development of our student-athletes,” said Richardson.

Additionally, Westminster Director of Athletics Jim Dafler is serving as chair of the PAC Athletic Administrators (AA) Council. Tammy Swearingen, senior woman administrator, assistant director of athletics and head women’s volleyball coach, is chairing the PAC Senior Woman Administrators Council (SWAC).

The PAC Faculty Athletic Representatives Association (FARA) is being chaired by Dr. Sararose Lynch, assistant professor of mathematics education.

Titan sports streaming live
Westminster College is now partnering with SIDEARM Sports to bring high-definition streaming video to Titan fans. The new system also integrates XML-based live stats, allowing score graphics to be overlaid on the screen. Instant highlights can also be posted on various avenues, including Titan social media accounts.

In order to follow along with Titan athletic events, fans should bookmark westminster.edu/watch. There Titan fans will be able to find all of the live broadcasts, as well as view games on-demand.
TITAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

Please note that completion of the nomination form below is NOT required for submission. A nominator can submit similar information to Director of Athletics, Jim Dafler via email at daflerje@westminster.edu or by mailing content to Jim Dafler at Westminster College, 319 South Market Street, New Wilmington, PA 16172. Deadline for nominations each year is March 1. Nominees not selected remain on the ballot for one additional year.

Nominee ___________________________ Class Year _________
Address __________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone __________________________________________________________
Email __________________________________________________________

Nominated by __________________ Class Year _________
Address __________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone __________________________________________________________
Email __________________________________________________________

Justification (attach supporting data if necessary):

Sport(s) _________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Letters earned________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Awards, honors, accomplishments, etc. ______________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

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.

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For more information, contact Melissa Beadle at 724-946-6038, beadlemc@westminster.edu.
Before committing to Westminster, I worried about the financial burden of college. My mother is a single mom, and although I am academically inclined, I knew many brilliant minds who were struggling to pay back their student loans. Then I got a call from Westminster saying that I had received an incredible scholarship opportunity.

Many colleges offer financial aid, but no school in my search could even parallel the generosity of Westminster’s alumni scholarships and endowment funds. Without that kindness, I would not have been able to pursue an internship in Italy or focus on my studies without working a full-time job. Truly, I do not think I would have been able to afford to stay in college at all if not for the goodness of the Westminster family. So here, I am able to thrive because I can put my mind to the books instead of the numbers, and that is a debt I cannot wait to pay forward.

Marissa Miller ‘18
English Major

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There can be no better way to preserve the future of Westminster College than through giving. Every gift of every size contributes to student success.
HOMECOMING 2017 REMINDED US THAT
WE ARE ALL TITANS THROUGH & THROUGH.

Homecoming Worship Service was led by
the Class of 1967 in the Wallace Memorial
Chapel.

Teddy Constantine, Phi Mu, and Matt
McDonald, Theta Chi, were crowned Queen
and King.

MORE PHOTOS FROM
HOMECOMING
ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!
www.westminster.edu/homecomingpics
RELATIONSHIPS MATTER — Dar Huey ’74 and his wife, Sally Keener Huey ’74, at the dedication of the School of Education’s Dar Huey Conference Room, located in Huey’s former office on the third floor of Old Main. Many alumni, friends, colleagues and students attended the dedication ceremony honoring the beloved education professor who retired at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year.

BIG EXCITEMENT OVER TINY HOUSE — The Westminster Tiny House was officially dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony during Homecoming Weekend. Participating in the ceremony were, from left, Dr. Helen Boylan ’95, Mary Cooley James ’84, Dr. Dorothy Pollock ’46, Justin Wilson ’18, Madison Grimes ’18, Lexie Yoho ’18, President Richardson, and Christen Duerrig ’18.
Alumni Citations

WILMA CRANKSHAW DONALDSON ’64
Wilma Crankshaw Donaldson spent 35 years teaching in Weston, Conn. During that time, she and two colleagues presented at the first Soviet-American Conference of Science Teachers in Moscow. A NASA-Newest awardee, Donaldson worked with NASA Langley Air Force Base personnel on a space/flight educational curriculum; conducted workshops as a teacher-trainer of Exxon’s CHEM (chemistry, health, environment and me) project; and authored math/science filmstrips for Eyegate. As co-director/teacher she helped bring Camp Invention and Family Science Night to Weston, where she also conducted photography and creative writing class in the after-school program. She also wrote the system’s first elementary curriculum guide. Four of her curriculum projects were recognized by the state for excellence and she has received honors as Weston Teacher of the Year, semifinalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year, Presidential Award nominee and Distinguished Classroom Teacher.

MARY LYNN TOBIN ’76
After graduating from Westminster, Mary Lynn Tobin continued her education at San Francisco Theological Seminary during a time when female ministers were rare, earning the seminary’s Pastoral Ministry Prize granted by faculty at graduation. She served as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, before being called to Davis (Calif.) Community Church. Over the next 24 years her leadership in advocating for LGBTQ+ men and women resulted in studies for her congregants and presbytery members and her congregation’s decision to instruct its nominating committees to disregard sexual orientation. In 2013 Tobin followed a new call as a leadership coach, listening to and counseling with clients who are primarily new pastors. She and her husband, David Campbell ’78, live in Davis.

DANIEL J. VOGLER ’81
Since 2003, Dan Vogler has served as an elected commissioner for Lawrence County. During three of his four terms he served as board chairman, and he chairs the county’s retirement board, salary board and board of elections. His career also includes 14 years as director of governmental affairs and registered lobbyist for New Castle-based Pennsylvania Power Company. He also served as an elected supervisor in Neshannock Township. Active within the community, Vogler has been involved with numerous civic organizations and has served on various boards, including UPMC Jameson Care Center, the Lawrence County Tourist Promotion Agency’s board of directors, and Westminster’s Alumni Council. A member of First Presbyterian Church in New Castle, he is the father of Jonathan, Lyndsey Vogler ’13 and Christopher.

Young Alumni Award

DAVID BAUER ’10
David Bauer is a co-founder and partner in the general practice law firm of Swisher, Bauer, Luciano PLLC and founder of Beacon Estate Planning & Elder Law. After serving on the congressional campaign of current congressman Mike Kelly, he decided that instead of pursuing politics, he would follow his dream of becoming an attorney. He commuted daily from Butler to Duquesne University School of Law while continuing to coach Slippery Rock High School football in the evenings. At Duquesne he co-founded the Sole Practitioner Society to assist students who wanted to open their own solo practices. Bauer graduated from law school in 2014, passed the bar exam, married MaryBeth Memo ’10 two days later, and established his own general practice.

Rising Titan Award

LEXIE YOHO ’18
Lexie Yoho, a senior environmental science major from Pittsburgh, is a four-year starter for Westminster’s volleyball team, earning second team all-conference recognition as a freshman and first team all-conference as a sophomore and junior. On campus she is president of Pre-Veterinary Society, Green Party and Sierra Student Coalition; and a member of Beta Beta Beta biology honors society, the Tiny House team, outdoor and recreation club, health and fitness club and sustainability committee. She was a member of the 2017 Experience Alaska team that traveled to Alaska to learn about impacts on the environment and to complete mission work. She is an academic tutor for Westminster’s sports teams, an intern at the Lawrence County Conservation District, a volunteer at her home parish’s events and a coach for youth volleyball teams.
TWENTY YEARS. Where did the time go? Seems like just yesterday I was tossing a Frisbee in the Quad and rockin’ my Birkenstocks, while Chumbawamba’s “Tubthumping” blared from some distant boombox. Ah, those were the days.

This year marks 20 years since my class, the Class of ’97, bid adieu the hallowed halls of Westminster and head out to take on the so-called “real world.” I’ve been back to campus many times since then, but only for a brief visit or to attend an event. So, I thought it might be fun to spend an entire day wandering the grounds to see if I could conjure up the ghosts of Westminster past and see how things have changed in the last two decades.
I arrived on campus right around 9 a.m. on Monday, and it was a perfect September morning to do a little time traveling. I decided to begin my exploration by going back to where it all began, at least for me: Jeffers Hall. Walking up the steep path to the dorm, I was glad I didn’t have a heavy backpack weighing me down. Passing Hillside, I made my way over to my beloved freshman dorm. It was right here where I stood 24 years earlier, trying to get my parents to just leave and go home, for cryin’ out loud, as my loving mother fought back her tears. Little did I know this modest residence hall is where I’d meet many lifelong friends, including the future best man in my wedding.

Jeffers hasn’t changed much since I’ve been there, at least not the exterior. Inside was a little rough when I was a freshman. We didn’t even have Internet access! Next I swung up past where my parents to just leave and go home, for cryin’ out loud, as my loving mother fought back her tears. Little did I know this modest residence hall is where I’d meet many lifelong friends, including the future best man in my wedding.

Just past Eich, behind Russell Hall, the field where we used to play pick-up football is now Berlin Village, a community of 25 lovely townhouses, each equipped with a full kitchen, washer/dryer, living area, four single bedrooms, two full baths, and heat and air-conditioning provided by geothermal energy. Did I mention they overlook scenic Brittain Lake? Boy, did I go to college too early.

Being so close to the lake, I had to stroll down and lay my hands on “The Rock,” which was covered in a brilliant Titan blue. It was good to see this wonderful old tradition was still alive and well.

Next I swung up past where my mentor and good friend Dr. James A. Perkins, professor of English and public relations emeritus, and his lovely wife Jane used to live at 118 Prospect St. Unfortunately, their house, which was built in 1852 by D.H.A. McLean, one of the two principal founders of the college, was recently razed (you could still see it on Google Maps at the time of this writing). In its place now stands the Westminster Tiny House, a living/learning educational experience that integrates concepts of sustainability, simple living, environmental science into students’ coursework and lifestyles. Finished late this summer, the blue-and-white-painted, 160-square-foot home will go a long way in helping position the college as a leading innovator in sustainability education. And it’s pretty darn cute, too.

After making a quick pit stop down at the Memorial Field House, I headed over toward the Quad and was surprised to find that I couldn’t see it through the canopy of trees lining the sidewalk up the hill. Apparently they’ve brought in some bigger trees since 1997.

The Quad looks pretty much the same, I’m happy to report, and I was thrilled to see that the Peace Pole and Orb were still there. The only changes I noticed were a couple newer benches and the lack of any flannel-clad hacky-sackers. Taking a seat on a bench, I sat back and studied the students of 2017 as they made their way to and from class. The first thing I noticed was their age. I mean, students are way younger today than when I was an undergrad. Secondly, instead of Birkenstocks and wool hiking socks, the popular foot attire seems to be tennis shoes and black mid-calf socks. Oh, well. I’m sure they’ll be looking back in regret in 20 years, too.

Next I wandered around Patterson Hall, which is much more modern and appealing now, and Hoyt Science Center, which is currently undergoing a million-dollar renovation project. I spent many an hour in Patterson as a freshman taking classes like Spanish II and Quest. Hoyt would’ve been my true academic home, had I had stuck with Computer Information Systems and not switched to English. But then I probably never would’ve had the opportunity to write this piece. So, I guess it all worked out in the end.
One of the biggest differences on campus since I graduated has to be the old T.U.B. It’s no longer there. At least not the modest one I knew, with a mailroom, seven or eight round tables, and a small grille. My favorite part of the old T.U.B. was the little corner arcade, which featured the classic Atari game “Pole Position,” on which I held the high score until a freak lightning storm cut power and erased any record of it. (Honest!)

Today the much larger and aesthetically pleasing Andrew J. McKelvey Campus Center is a favorite gathering place for students. Built in 2003, this 76,000-square-foot facility features many more dining options, as well as a Starbucks, ballroom, bookstore, mailroom, nightclub, meeting spaces, dozens of tables and restaurant-style booths, and even a movie theatre. I’ll say it again: I went to college to... Soon.

Across the Quad, McGill Library has to be the other biggest change. Completed in 2008, the $6.2-million renovation project spanned nearly two years saw, among other things, the relocation of the main entrance (from the right to the left) and construction of a handicapped-accessible lift; creation of the Williamson and the Drinko Rooms; and relocation and renovation of the computer lab. Instead of the handful of big, clunky desktops I remember, students now have access to plentiful, sleek computers and other technology in “The HUB.” Upstairs, the Ferguson Room has been overhauled and is now a stunningly beautiful and peaceful room for quiet study. Heck, even I would have been enticed to hit the books more often with a room like this.

There have definitely been a number of physical changes to the college in the last 20 or so years. But what about what really defines Westminster? You know, the stuff you can’t touch or see, like its commitment to values, passionate faculty members, and a quality liberal-arts education. To answer this, I went to Dr. Jeffrey Scott Coker, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College.

“A careful read of Westminster’s history shows that certain core values have remained intact since its founding: integrity, a caring community, a commitment to the liberal arts, and the belief that higher education is for all people,” says Coker. “Westminster has long stood for the right things, and we will certainly continue to do so.”

Possibly the only one of my instructors who’s still teaching at Westminster is English professor David Swerdlow. Despite the changes in society over the last two decades, Swerdlow believes the College has remained true to its foundations.

“In this period often characterized by rancor and division, the Westminster community remains committed to the liberal arts as a way of educating good and productive world citizens who care for their fellow citizens meaningfully,” he says. “Our faculty models this behavior by engaging in civil debate and by establishing authentic relationships with students. In other words, we are a thoughtful, caring community.”

So overall, yeah, a lot has changed at Westminster since 1997. But I’m glad to see that many things are still the same, too. Sitting there on the steps of McGill and looking out into the Quad, if I tried really hard, I could almost imagine I was still bright-eyed 22-year-old with no clue what the future held for me.

Of course, then I tried to stand up and the pain in my knees and lower back brought me right back to 2017 again. Oh, well. At least I have the memories.
Saturday, November 18
ELVIS MY WAY
starring Brandon Bennett
The electrifying Brandon Bennett (MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET) sets the stage ablaze in a spine-tingling tribute to Elvis Presley. Bennett was named the “Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist” by Elvis Presley Enterprises at Graceland.

Monday, December 11
The TEN Tenors
Home for the Holidays
A magical experience for the whole family that will dazzle, delight and captivate. Join Australia’s rock stars of the opera as they amaze and enthral with their unique selection of traditional and contemporary favorites!

Saturday, April 28
THE McCARTNEY YEARS
The Premiere Paul McCartney Concert Experience! A period-true, technically stunning and explosive live concert show that performs the music of Paul McCartney spanning two decades from The Beatles to Wings.

Celebrity Series for Kids
HOW I BECAME A PIRATE
Monday, May 14
6:30 p.m. Public Show
Tuesday, May 15
10:30 a.m. School Show
A swashbuckling, high-energy, funny bone tickling musical adaptation of Melinda Long’s best selling book that is sure to leave young mateys singing and dancing in the aisles!

FOR TICKET INFORMATION: www.westminster.edu/celebrity • 724-946-7354
MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI COUNCIL

Home. Not just the physical place we grew up, but much more — family, neighbors, friends, comfort, support. Even separated by many years and many miles, the sound of a voice or the smell of a summer rain can take us back.

Homecoming is much the same. The annual return to the Westminster campus, or even a casual visit during the year while in the neighborhood, evokes memories in the same way, and for the same reasons. Our childhood and adolescence was at home; our fits and starts and successes at maturing to adulthood were at Westminster. Each has shaped us into the person we have become — our intellect, our ambitions, our character, our values.

Often, the return home or the return to campus is filtered by these memories, calling to mind a friend, an event, or maybe some tale of, shall we say, mischief or adventure. Our eyes take in the 2017 campus, but we see it through lenses of years ago. It’s a good thing; as alumni it is a permanent foundation of who we are. It is an acknowledgement that Westminster is valued for more than scholarly achievement, it is about the whole person.

Giving it a different context, we have been beneficiaries. By extension, just as we look back on the benefits we have received, we must concurrently look to the present and future, assuring that those currently on campus as well as the classes to come have just as vibrant an opportunity to benefit from the Westminster experience. As one commentator put it at a recent Westminster Trustees meeting, it is about moving from beneficiary to benefactor.

The Alumni Council encourages you to return to the campus, whether at Homecoming or some other time during the year, or even in personal reflection, but this time to see it in contemporary terms. Wonderful things are happening. We have new, energetic leadership with President Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson and her team. We have renewal and expansion of the physical setting, including renovations to Hoyt, Russell, and Burry Stadium as well as less visible improvements like upgraded internet and network capabilities. We have expanded and renewed academic offerings that target student interests and market needs, like the new nursing program. We are adding new campus opportunities, like the lacrosse teams. And we have fun, contemporary activities like the Tiny House project.

As alumni we share gratitude for our time on campus, which we need to express through our direct involvement going forward. Many of you make regular and generous contributions in general support as well as support for the many special capital, student, and scholarship funds, which we truly appreciate. We hope you will consider expanding your support to include offering your personal time and talent as well, whether it is volunteering to support events, or more direct support through activities such as recruitment or mentoring students. Please check the website or stay connected on social media to learn more.

We invite you to take a look at today’s Westminster, and to envision tomorrow’s as well. Keep those fond remembrances of your campus experience, and channel them into a personal commitment to support Westminster now and in the years to come.

Titan Wishes,

Doug Hill ’76
Alumni Council President
1963

Ted Stanley earned the distinguished Ruby Life Master designation in the game of bridge and is currently ranked in the top 15 percent of bridge players in the country. He and his wife, Carol, live in Ft. Myers, Fla.

1975

Christopher Yahn retired from the Ellwood City Area School District in June after 42 years of service. His last position was in accounting and purchasing in the district’s Business Office.

1978

Brian Ocock spent two weeks in July teaching chorus to sixth- and seventh-graders at the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School in China as part of the school’s summer enrichment program. He joined 60 teachers of various subjects from the U.S., Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark and the U.K. Brian, who lives in Danvers, Mass., is a choral director for Masconomet Regional Middle and High School in Boxford, Mass., and is a member of Lyricora, a small choral group that performs throughout the New England area.

1980

Jeff Fishell retired after 31 years as risk control director at CAN Insurance. He and his wife, Susan Carr Fishell, reside in Richmond, Va.

1987

Jennifer Neuman March was named executive director of Pittsburgh’s Family House, an organization that provides hospitality houses for patients and their families seeking medical treatment for acute or life-threatening illnesses.

1990

Erin Herman Hoffman earned a master of health administration degree from Ohio University. She is system director of laboratory business operations at OhioHealth in Columbus.

1992

Esther Mellinger Stief was promoted to executive director of Crossroads Foundation, an educational nonprofit that offers Catholic high school scholarships to the Pittsburgh region’s underserved youth.

2004

Bruce Johnson was elected to partnership in the Las Vegas law firm of Ballard Spahr LLP. He focuses on real estate, commercial finance and investment transactions, as well as the development and financing of energy generation and transmission projects.

The Rev. Tara Neely Fanton was named chaplain/bereavement and volunteer coordinator for Pilgrimage Hospice in Pittsburgh. She also serves as assistant pastor at Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO). Tara and her husband, Wray, live in Coraopolis.

2009

Alex Hines was named weekend anchor at WBOY-TV in Clarksburg, W. Va., where he also reports news in four counties.

2012

Kaylynn Coates, who is pursuing a Ph.D. at West Virginia University, authored a research article featured on the cover of the Journal of Neuroscience, one of the most prestigious journals in the field.

2014

Nicole Karpinsky earned a master’s degree in applied experimental psychology from Old Dominion University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in human factors psychology. (See also Weddings)
RUSSELL ROOMIES

After 45 years, these Russell Hall freshmen roommates were reunited, sharing stories, laughter and tears from their Westminster days. From left to right are Class of 1976 members Dan Mularski, Rich D’Amaro, Jack Ewig, Jeff Ciarrochi, and Chris Shovlin.

TWENTY YEARS LATER

Westminster friendships last. 1997 classmates, from left, Kori Anderson Colangelo, Shari Hemphill Muza, and Michelle Hughes Cramer, recently reunited in Pittsburgh to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their graduations.

WEDDINGS

1984

1992
Heather Davidson and Dan Fry, April 23, 2017, in Grove City. Heather is a gifted support teacher for the Grove City School District. The couple resides in Greenville.

1997
Angie Renninger and Tim Redlinger, June 17, 2017, on the River Queen BB Riverboat in Newport, Ky. Attending were Scott Renninger, Westminster professor of physical education emeritus, T.J. Renninger ’08 and Carissa O’Connor Renninger ’12. Angie works in athletic marketing and special events at Miami University. She and Tim make their home in Oxford, Ohio.

2008
Jennifer Allen and Jason Mitchell ’07, July 11, 2015, at St. Gerald Majella Church in Pittsburgh. Alumni in the wedding party were Missy Wayne ’10, Benjamin Snyder ’07, Craig Carlin ’04, Christopher Brennenman ’07 and Shaun Babka ’04. The couple and their son live in Glenshaw. (See also New Additions)

2009
Katharine Khattab and Jared Ronnow, Jan. 27, 2017. The couple lives in Jenks, Okla.

2010
Amanda Ratliff and Derek Schmid, Aug. 19, 2017, at the Blair Center at Westfield Center, Ohio. Melissa Rudman Mehalik ’12 served as a bridesmaid. The couple resides in Wooster, Ohio.

2013
Chelsea Loub and James Capretti, July 11, 2015, at Antiochian Village in Ligonier. Attending were Janelle Grasso Slobodnyak ’14, Todd Slobodnyak ’12 and Kristina Scanlan ’12. The couple resides in Smithton.

2014
Nicole Karpinsky and Brandon Mosley, June 3, 2017, at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. Alumni in the wedding party were bridesmaids Simmone Bell ’13, Nicole Hoblak ’13 and Kathryn Patterson ’15 and groomsmen Anthony Caratelli ’13, Reuben King, JaQuan Madison, Thomas Fields and Michael Brooks. (See also Class Notes)

WEDDING ALBUM

Allen-Mitchell
Khattab-Ronnow
Loub-Capretti
Illis-McCormick
Davidson-Fry
Renninger-Redlinger
Karpinsky-Mosley

Westminster College Magazine 41
2003
► Jami White Evans and her husband, Ryan: a daughter, Rylan Hazel, on May 30, 2017. She joins big brother Jace (4), at home in Hubbard, Ohio.

2005
► Jaime Carter Dray and her husband, Steve: a son, Carter Isaiah, on Sept. 17, 2016. He is welcomed by big sister Brooklynn (3), at home in Robinson.

► Bethany Grubbs Wentz and her husband, Bradley: a son, Benjamin Arthur, on June 24, 2017. He joins four older siblings at home in Valencia.

2006
► Rachel DeVuyst McKay and her husband, Jeremy: a daughter, Georgia Kimberly, on Jan. 6, 2017. She is welcomed by brothers Foster and Peter at home in Webster, N.Y.

2007
► Randi Eckelberger Knight and her husband, Matthew Knight: a daughter, Perrie Irene, on June 11, 2016.


2008
► Jennifer Allen Mitchell and her husband, Jason Mitchell 07: a son, Gavin Edward, on Dec. 31, 2016. The family lives in Glenshaw. (See also Weddings)

2010
► Danielle Llewellyn Hart and her husband, David Hart: a daughter, Isabelle Ryan, on May 16, 2017. The family lives in Hermitage.

2012
► Athena Ablog Wahal and her husband, Zachary Wahal 10: a daughter, Ella Mae, on June 21, 2017. The family lives in Moon Township.

2013
► Caitlin Fleckenstein Chinchilla and her husband, Brian Chinchilla 12: a daughter, Cecilia Ann, on June 13, 2017. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

WESTMINSTER REPRESENTED

Westminster College was well represented at the 2017 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 West Junior High Chorus Festival held in May at Montour High School. The festival was led by Westminster alumni, from left, cohost Keri Conger Merklin 03; accompanist Kevin Shields 09; guest conductor Karen Campman Emmett 75; and cohost Cyndi Mancini 06.
Westminster College was the first school I visited during my college search process, and I returned for a second campus visit before making my decision. There really is something special about the culture on Westminster’s campus, and it’s ultimately where I felt at home.

During my time at Westminster, I changed my major several times—from pre-med/biology to undecided, to religion to undecided, to public relations and then I added Spanish as a second major. I was involved in several on-campus activities, and I even had the chance to study abroad, which was undoubtedly one of the best experiences of my life.

Many of my professors were more than just teachers. They made themselves available when I had questions. They encouraged and inspired me. They became my mentors. One was responsible for giving me the contact that helped me land my first job in the corporate communications department at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

I’m currently the marketing manager for Henne Jewelers in Pittsburgh, and previously served as marketing manager for Apogee IT Services. My education prepared me for these positions. In fact, while at Apogee, the CEO told me that I am the walking embodiment of a liberal arts education. He spoke of my ability to think critically and to organize and orchestrate successful strategic plans, as well as my emotional intelligence. All of these skills and character traits I acquired during my time at Westminster, thanks to the relationships I formed and the experiences I had.

Westminster College had so much of an impact on my life—and my husband’s (Michael Spicuzza ’07)—that we decided to make New Wilmington our home with our two children. Although neither of us is from New Wilmington, we’ve made friends in the area and have formed a great village. We are both still connected to the campus, and some of those same professors still recognize me and say hello when they see me in town nearly 10 years later. Perhaps one day our children will also call Westminster home.

To the church members who originally pushed me to look at Westminster, to the admissions staff who made an impression, to the students who make the campus, and to the professors who take pride in the impact they have—thank you.

– Christine Line Spicuzza ’08
Regional events are open to all alumni and friends of Westminster College. The Office of Alumni Relations works with volunteers to plan events in cities and regions across the country. Get connected with alumni in your area!

▲ ALUMNI HAVE A ‘WILD’ TIME — Close to 150 alumni and friends from near and far joined the Westminster College Alumni Association for a roaring good time at summer zoo events in Columbus and Pittsburgh. More than 35 alumni gathered for brunch at the Tiger Pavilion at the Columbus Zoo and more than 100 alumni gathered for lunch at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

▲ NARCISI WINERY — Alumni and friends gathered around music, tapas, and sunshine as we celebrated our connection to Westminster College at the Narcisi Winery just 10 miles north of Pittsburgh in July. The event was planned by the Pittsburgh Regional Alumni committee.

▲ IRONS MILL ALUMNI DAY — More than 120 alumni and friends gathered on a warm fall September day for hayrides, games, face painting, a corn maze, and Apple Castle donuts at Irons Mill Farmstead.

▲ NWMC 2017 — This July, dormitories and dining halls were filled with more than 800 guests from 30 states and 20 countries at the New Wilmington Mission Conference—some of which gathered for pie and refreshments as President Kathy Richardson provided remarks and thanks for their service to the College and to the world for so many years.
WELCOMING WESTMINSTER LEGACIES

This year more than 30 students were welcomed into the Legacy Family, entering into a long-standing and proud tradition at Westminster. On Move-in Day, those who were able attended a Legacy Family Reception, a full-circle gathering for alumni and their incoming first year students. Pictured above are this year’s new Legacy students and their alumni family members. A tie for the “Longest Legacy Family” went to first year students Bryer Cochenour and Elaina Chapnell, both having a long line of eight family members who attended Westminster College. To view more photos of Westminster’s new Legacy students, please visit www.westminster.edu/legacypics.

DECEMBER 9
Kraynak’s Christmas Lane
(Kraynak’s, Hermitage)

DECEMBER 10
Christmas Vespers & Lunch

JANUARY 9
Wear Westminster Day

JANUARY 20
Alumni Council Meeting
(members only)

JANUARY 30
Get to Know the Student Alumni Association (SAA)

FEBRUARY 15
SAA Leadership Dinner

APRIL 6
Friday Dinners with Alumni (locations TBA)

APRIL 8
8th Annual Florida Dinner & Dance Cruise (reservations required)

APRIL 14
Alumni Council Meeting (open meeting)

APRIL 18
Undergraduate Research & Arts Celebration

MAY 12
Commencement

CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS PAGE OFTEN FOR UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS!
westminster.edu/alumni/events

8TH ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS DINNER DANCE CRUISE

TAMPA BAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

BOARDING: 5:30 p.m.
DEPARTING: 6 p.m. from St. Petersburg Beach, 3400 Pasadena Ave. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33707
ACCESSIBILITY: Westminster College alumni & friends have a reserved, wheelchair accessible space on the lower deck. Free parking adjacent to dock.

Welcome aboard!
Alumni and friends are welcome to join Keith McCauley ’68, alumnus host and trustee, and Dr. Kathy Richardson, Westminster College’s 15th President, for a beautiful evening of dining, watching the sunset over Tampa Bay, dancing, and mingling with Westminster College alumni and friends.

RSVP BY MARCH 22, 2018 TO KEITH MCCAULEY
727-733-6075 | keithmccauley@msn.com
Word has reached us of the passing of the following alumni and friends of Westminster College. To submit information for the In Memoriam section, please provide a complete obituary notice (if available) to the Office of Alumni Relations.

ALUMNI

Virginia Rye Offutt ’42 of New Wilmington, April 20, 2017.
Bill Earl ’43 of Rehoboth Beach, Del., Aug. 12, 2017.
Jean Mackintosh Sherratt ’43 of Mt. Lebanon, Sept. 5, 2012.
Mary Louise Gettemy Ireland ’45 of New Wilmington, July 6, 2016.
Herman De Haas ’47 of Bangor, Maine, Oct. 20, 2016.
Robert Young ’47 of Mason, Ohio, April 3, 2016.
Jean Gebauer ’48 of Crafton, June 12, 2012.
Phyllis Hall Williams ’48 of Willoughby, Ohio, July 22, 2012.
Helen Nicely Clark ’48 of Willoughby, Ohio, July 22, 2012.
The Rev. Dr. Robert Canon ’50 of New Wilmington, Jan. 26, 2017.
Barbara Lewis Stewart Levine ’50 of West Salem Township, Nov. 9, 2015.
Hilda Stockhausen Claire ’50 of Youngstown, Ohio, April 20, 2017.
Jacquelyn Gawron ’56 of Columbus, Ohio, March 6, 2014.
Ethel Wheeler Belleville ’56 of Brunswick Hills, Ohio, Jan. 21, 2015.
Margaret “Peggy” Fox Wernert ’56 of Pittsburgh, Oct. 4, 2013.
Richard Proch M’56 of McDonald, Ohio, March 4, 2013.
Karl Zimmer ’56 of Cleveland, Ohio, May 15, 2017.
Ralph Ludwig ’60 of Stow, Ohio, April 11, 2016.
The Rev. George Hufnagel ’61 of Carlisle, June 20, 2014.
John Sniezek ’62 of Columbus, Ohio, March 6, 2014.
David Trautman ’62 of Mt. Lebanon, Sept. 5, 2012.
Sharon Sims ’62 of New Wilmington, Feb. 1, 2017.
Robert Burig ’63 of New Wilmington, Aug. 18, 2017.
Calvin McCracken ’66 of Youngstown, Ohio, March 24, 2017.
Marvin Naylor ’66 of Austintown, Ohio, Jan. 9, 2013.
Richard Cain ’59 of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., March 26, 2017.
John Pelusi Sr. M’59 of Youngstown, Ohio, June 8, 2014.
Mary Smith Kauback ’59 of New Wilmington, April 10, 2017.
George Lewis M’60 of Akron, Ohio, Nov. 8, 2016.
Donald Thomas ’60 of Indian Rocks Beach, Fla., Aug. 25, 2016.
Barbara Seeley Amsdell ’62 of Bay Village, Ohio, Aug. 15, 2017.
Dr. Vivian Shaver Titus ’65 of Gold Beach, Ore., July 15, 2014.
Bruce Kemitz ’66 of Newark, Ohio, May 15, 2017.
Carol Merolla Foster ’66 of West Salem Township, May 5, 2012.
Jacquelyn Gawron ’66 of Columbus, Ohio, March 6, 2014.
Evelyn Wheeller Belleville ’67 of Brunswick Hills, Ohio, Jan. 21, 2015.
Margaret “Peggy” Fox Wernert ’67 of Pittsburgh, Oct. 4, 2013.
Richard Proch M’67 of McDonald, Ohio, March 4, 2013.
Karl Zimmer ’67 of Cleveland, Ohio, May 15, 2017.
Ralph Ludwig ’68 of Stow, Ohio, April 11, 2016.
The Rev. George Hufnagel ’71 of Carlisle, June 20, 2014.
Linda Somerton Foster ’72 of Cranberry Township, June 22, 2017.
John Sniezek ’72 of Columbus, Ohio, March 6, 2014.
Robert Allgyer ’73 of Columbus, Ohio, May 15, 2017.
Ellen Bowman Riddle ’74 of Tampa, May 22, 2017.
John Quinn ’76 of Boston, Sept. 30, 2016.
The Rev. Dr. William McGary M’79 of Volant, Sept. 8, 2017.
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G. ALAN “AL” STERNBERGH ’51
MAY 16, 2017

After 15 years as director of sales and training for General Fireproofing in Youngstown, Ohio, Al returned to Westminster in 1969, where he was one of the first small college directors of career planning and placement (now the Career Center). After 20 years in that position, he moved to the development office, retiring in 1993.

PAUL F. DECKER ’51
AUG. 27, 2017

Paul served on Westminster’s Board of Trustees from 2007-2011. He graduated from Westminster after serving in the U.S. Army during the occupation of Japan. Following an experience in industrial sales he studied business administration. He went to Detroit and worked for the Chrysler Corporation for 39 years, retiring in 1994.

JONATHAN L. SMITH ’02, M’07
SEPT. 24, 2017

Jonathan, who earned his undergraduate degree in computer information systems, returned to his alma mater in 2003. As the College’s director of enterprise services, Jonathan maintained the administrative system, oversaw the web team, and established the College’s first social media accounts. He also served as adviser to the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

RAYMOND OCOCK ’56
OCT. 23, 2017

Ray, professor of music emeritus, had a long and distinguished association with Westminster, first appearing on campus in 1946 as a freshman organ major. After graduating in 1950, he went on to Union Theological Seminary in New York City for his Master of Sacred Music degree and then to Evansville, Ind., to start a career as a church organist and choir director. In 1956 he returned to Westminster to join the music faculty, beginning what was to be an almost lifetime career teaching organ and accompanying college choirs in partnership with Dr. Clarence J. Martin. He retired after 35 years at Westminster, but continued to make music and teach part-time at Westminster and Thiel College, often playing for important ceremonies as well as performing the carillon of Old Main.
Patterson Hall went more than 20 years without the name of Westminster’s first president attached to it. The Arts and Science Building, completed in 1966 as a multi-purpose academic building, was renamed in 1989 in honor of James Patterson, Westminster President from 1853-1866. In 1958, the Board of Trustees approved the plans to build the new structure, which cost $1,600,000 to construct. In 1961, the building was dedicated. The music department section was occupied January 1961. On June 1, 1964, the Board approved additional construction to include an auditorium to seat 1,750; a classroom wing for political science, sociology, religion, history, philosophy, classics, art department and gallery; and the 300-seat Beeghly Theater, named for Leon Beeghly, a Youngstown industrialist and contributor. The new Beeghly Theater opened Oct. 27-29, 1966, with Macbeth, starring Joy Tobin and James Elder and featuring a cast of 35. The building addition also featured a storage area for library collections of scores and records in the music library. In June 1967, the Board renamed the auditorium the Will Orr Auditorium in honor of the Westminster’s first president emeritus.

In 2003 and 2004, there were major renovations to Orr auditorium and Patterson Hall for $1.7 million received from a state grant. The renovation included air conditioning, new seats, carpeting, lighting, new dressing rooms, first floor women’s rest room, handicap accessibility features, and a loading elevator from the outside to the stage. Patterson underwent a $5 million renovation in 2012 under the tenure of President Dr. Richard H. Dorman, Westminster’s 14th President. Today the facility, with modern furnishing and decor, is fit for teaching and learning in the 21st century and is equipped with smart classrooms and more collaborative learning spaces.
A Promise for Westminster

Mother Fair has always held special meaning to Marie and John Peterson.

“Westminster has meant a great deal to both of us,” said Marie. “We both received solid educations, made wonderful friendships, and enjoyed every moment. Our time there was very meaningful.”

Beyond their college years, the couple remained active alumni and generous supporters of the College. Giving back has been their way of expressing their appreciation and love for Westminster and its mission.

Sadly, John passed away in February 2017. Marie chose to continue the Petersons’ tradition of supporting their alma mater in a very purposeful way: honoring her late husband, a retired Presbyterian pastor, through a substantial gift to the Office of Faith and Spirituality.

“We were always happy to give back,” Marie said. “We did well because of our education, and our promise has been that every student should have the same opportunity.”

WHY DO YOU GIVE?

A charitable gift is an excellent way to extend a helping hand to a current Westminster student.

YOUR GIFT | OUR STUDENTS’ FUTURE. THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.

For information on making a planned gift and becoming a member of The Legacy Society, contact Senior Director of Development Roxann Williams at 724-946-6995 or email williare@westminster.edu.
MOVE-IN MOMENT

Elaina Chapnell, first-year student and new member of the Legacy Family, snaps a selfie with her alumni parents Tammy Badger Chapnell ’90 and David Chapnell ’90 following Opening Convocation.