

Westminster

FALL/WINTER 2019
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COLLEGE MAGAZINE



GROUNDBREAKING History

Hoyt Science Center expansion will take
STEM teaching, learning to new heights

HOMEcomings *and* REUNION WEEKEND

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On the cover: Breaking ground for the Hoyt Science Center project are from left Dr. Jeffrey Coker, Megan Parker '21, President Kathy Richardson, Trustee Chair Robin Willoughby Gooch '75, Kenneth Romig '85 and Matthew Stinson. (Photo by Brian Bornes)

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ECO ART

The installation of "Waterfall," a sculpture constructed from 1,500 single-use plastic shopping bags, was displayed in McKelvey Campus Center in September just prior to Westminster's Climate Teach-in event and the Global Climate Strike. Created by senior fine art major **Nicole Gardner '20**, "Waterfall" resembles a polluted waterfall and represents the 1,500 shopping bags an average American family takes home each year. To create this piece, Gardner relied on the hands of 50 volunteers—turning a potential three-week project into a nine-hour one. The Climate Teach-in, organized by instruction and outreach librarian **Eloise Stevens** and **Dr. Helen Boylan**, director of the Center on the Environment, featured a panel session and five faculty-led cross-disciplinary sessions that centered on environmental and climate change issues. Session topics included Climate Change and the Liberal Arts; Accounting for Sustainability; Ethics, Ecology and Pluralism; Environmental Policy and the Tragedy of the Commons; and The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health.



More than 140 families were reunited on Sept. 14 for Westminster's annual Family Day tradition. Parents, grandparents, siblings—any family members!—were treated to a special day on campus. Aside from tours, mingling or attending a campus event, families also had plenty of time to reconnect with their Westminster student. Mark your calendars for Family Day 2020, scheduled for Sept. 19.

CONTENTS

FALL/WINTER 2019 | Volume XXXVIII, Issue 1

2	Message from the President
3	Breaking New Ground: College Launches Hoyt Science Center Expansion Project
6	Campus News
7	An Everlasting Gift
10	New Space for Big Ideas: Thompson-Clark Now Home to Entrepreneurship Hub
11	Sneak Peak: Inside the New Titan Locker Room
12	Student Spotlight: Legally Blind PAC Champ Has 20/20 Focus
14	Titan Spotlight: Three Alumni Face Mt. Kilimanjaro, Life's Challenges
16	Titan Spotlight: Erin Hassett '17 Discovers What Makes Her 'Tick'
18	Ten Things Titan
20	Alumni Inducted into Titan Hall of Fame
21	Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2019
24	Titan Spotlight: Doltyn Snedden '17 Captures the Street Survivors
25	Message from the Alumni Council
26	Class Notes
32	National Connections & Alumni Events
34	In Memoriam
36	WC Memories: Dorothy Pollock '46

STAY CONNECTED



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



From gilded shovels to large earthmovers, Titans have had ample opportunities this fall to watch groundbreaking as we have celebrated the beginning of construction on a new wing for the Hoyt Science Center. The wing, which is rising on the southeast corner of the Center, will contain new and modernized chemistry labs, additional classrooms and offices. The ceremonial groundbreaking saluted donors to the project and the students, faculty and staff who will benefit from the expanded and updated facilities. Held on a stunning autumn afternoon on Sept. 20, the joyful ceremony has been followed by days of hard work to prepare for laying the wing's steel foundation.

While this type of physical groundbreaking is obvious to anyone who drives or walks by, other types of groundbreaking at Westminster may be harder to observe. The founding of the College in 1852 itself was quietly groundbreaking. The founding presbyteries launched an academy open not only to men, which was the norm, but one open also to women and persons of color, without regard to creed. Westminster was certainly among the first—if not the first—college in the nation to break ground in such a visionary, inclusive fashion. The founders' wisdom guides our work today as the growing numbers of first-generation Titans mark a groundbreaking for their families and themselves. At Westminster, we walk with them as they travel the unfamiliar pathways of college education. *U.S. News & World Report* recently listed Westminster as #19 on its new social mobility ranking of the nation's top liberal arts colleges, recognizing the College's strong four-year graduation rate of Pell-eligible students. This recognition reinforces a groundbreaking achievement for these students and the College.

The deeply experiential opportunities found within a Westminster education offer multiple groundbreaking experiences for all students—whether it is working with a faculty mentor, studying in an international setting, performing on a stage, presenting research at a regional or national conference, completing a service project or winning an athletic championship. Some groundbreakings like Commencements or trophy ceremonies are celebrated publicly. Others are private moments of personal achievement, noted through a text to parents or a visit to a mentor's office to share a grad school acceptance letter or an email extending a job offer. Public or private, however, these events reflect the hard work necessary to break new ground. Hours of study, weeks of practice, years of sacrifice. Work completed by students, faculty, staff, donors, mentors and family members. Weeks and months of planning and effort culminating in a long hoped-for achievement. Few groundbreakings occur spontaneously or without the support and encouragement of those around us.

At Westminster, we've been celebrating groundbreakings since 1852, and we'll never tire of those critical moments in the College's present and future. Each one is special; each one is worth remembering; each one reminds us that getting some dirt on our hands while working hard signifies progress toward a worthwhile goal. From the achievements of our hard-working students to the construction of a 21st century science center, Titans have much to celebrate. It's a great time to be a Titan!

Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson
President



Artist's rendering of the future Hoyt Science Center space

BREAKING NEW GROUND

College launches Hoyt Science Center expansion project

BY MATTHEW P. STINSON | VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Friday, Sept. 20, was a picturesque afternoon on Westminster College's campus. The sun was shining as hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends gathered on the south lawn outside of Hoyt Science Center to celebrate a historical milestone: the ceremonial breaking of ground for an addition that will bring Westminster's science facilities to new levels.





1974

HOYT'S INITIAL CONSTRUCTION



\$11.2 MILLION

EXPANSION



An additional

27,000

SQUARE FEET



With shovels in hand, Matthew Stinson and President Richardson join the Titan for quick photo; ceremonial shovels signed by students are ready to be plunged into the earth.

The gathering was bordered on one side by a construction site already in progress and on the other side by the Westminster Titan Marching Band ready to share their musical energy to the celebration. Only in New Wilmington could a day celebrating the expansion of a state-of-the-art science facility be enhanced by the unplanned but welcomed presence of an Amish buggy clip-clopping past the construction site during the ceremony.

As I mentioned to the gathering of attendees, this project is not about a 27,000 square foot addition or the \$11.2 million expansion now under way or the \$20 million-plus overall project or the \$16.6 million so generously committed. The day was not about square feet or dollars. The day was a celebration of what occurs inside of Hoyt and the successful outcomes of our students who, as alumni, are leading lives of meaning, integrity and service to others. And it was a celebration of those who are making this vision a reality.

The afternoon celebration was the public announcement of Phase III of the Hoyt Renovation and Expansion Project. Hoyt's new three-story wing will provide six new teaching laboratories, three research laboratories, 10 faculty offices, a host of new student collaboration spaces and restrooms. The new Center for the Environment will also be housed in the addition. Thomas Construction has been working with the College on all three phases.

Vice President for Finance & Management Services **Ken Romig '85** shared background information on the impressive project. He explained that

Westminster faculty and administration, together with the architects and designers of BHP Architecture, spent a lot of time studying Hoyt and collaboratively creating a multi-phased plan.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Enrollment **Dr. Jeffrey Coker** was gracious in his comments.

"Your generosity is allowing us to provide campus facilities that foster more meaningful and higher-quality experiences," he said. "Every gift matters. To our faculty, staff and administrators who have worked on this project behind the scenes—planning it, explaining it to families and living through the sawdust—you are the very best, and your commitment is making Westminster a better place."

One of the highlights of the afternoon was heartfelt comments by Student Government Association President and nursing major **Megan Parker '21**.

"For me personally, Hoyt has been the center for my success," she said. "Before the nursing wing was constructed, it always felt like there was a piece missing. With this being a new major on campus, it felt like I did not have an area to call my own. As a nursing major, I just felt transparently non-existent. After coming back from winter break, that feeling took a complete 180. Walking into the second floor of Hoyt, seeing the glass windows and the sign that read 'Nursing Department' made this dream of mine finally seem achievable. It meant the world to me. I finally had a place to call my own on campus. I hope that other students who spend the majority of their time in this building have the same feeling or will be able to develop



Faculty members take a turn turning over dirt; student Megan Parker '21 explains how the Hoyt renovation and expansion will benefit her and future students. To view additional photos from the celebration, please visit westminster.edu/hoytgroundbreaking.

that same feeling through the course of this expansion.”

Chair of the Board of Trustees **Robin Willoughby Gooch '75** also expressed her appreciation.

“It is my distinct honor to be here today on behalf of the Board of Trustees to join in this celebration. As an alumna it brings me an even greater sense of pride and gratitude,” she said. “We are thankful for the many donors that made the renovations over the past couple of years a reality and now allow us to embark on this historical addition to the Hoyt Science Center.”

As I introduced President Richardson, I reminded the attendees that she has been a positive force for the College in a very short period of time. Over \$25 million in campus improvements have taken place during her first three years of her presidency—and that doesn’t include the Hoyt addition or the UPMC

Sports Complex that will be under construction next summer. We’re just getting started.

During her comments, President Richardson described the Hoyt Science Center as the type of facility that supports an education rich in experience and collaboration so as to prepare graduates for the industries like health care, manufacturing, energy and information technologies that power this region’s growth and progress.

She reminded us that almost one-third of our current students majors in one of the programs housed in Hoyt Science Center, and every Westminster student completes science and mathematics courses here. Hoyt truly touches all our students and helps prepare them for lives of success and service.

Her comments ended not surprisingly but inspiringly, “It is a GREAT day to be a Titan!”

Be a part of Hoyt’s history

We continue to have conversations with alumni and friends who have interest in financially assisting with the Hoyt Science Center Campaign. We know we can count on our Titan alumni and friends to make the final stages of this project a reality.

Gifts of all sizes are welcome to the project. Significant five-, six-, and seven-figure naming opportunities for the project remain available for people interested in providing support.

Some ways to consider making a larger gift than you may have thought possible:

- Spread your capital commitment over multiple years (up to five).
- Utilize your IRA required minimum distribution.
- Utilize highly appreciated stock.

President Richardson, Senior Director of Major Gifts Rob Klamut, Major Gifts Officer Andrew Youtz and I welcome your philanthropic participation. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions. You can reach our Institutional Advancement Office at **724-946-7368**.

6 NEW *teaching* LABORATORIES



3 RESEARCH LABORATORIES



STEM MAJORS

account for
1/3 of student body



50+
NUMBER OF
five-, six- or seven-figure
generous donors



CREATING A LEGACY

Twenty-one students were welcomed into the Legacy Family this fall, entering into a long-standing and proud tradition at Westminster. Pictured above are this year's new Legacy students and their alumni family members. Also pictured at right, holding Westminster throws, are Legacy students Connor Dale and Sarah Douds. Connor, part of the McGill family, has a 30-person line of Westminster College graduates in his family, while Sarah takes second place with 18 family members. To view individual family photos, please visit www.westminster.edu/legacypics

Annual Rankings

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Westminster College is again among the top best national liberal arts colleges in the nation according to the **U.S. News & World Report's** Best Colleges rankings. Climbing six spots, Westminster placed No. 114 in the National Liberal Arts Colleges category. Westminster was also ranked in the No. 19 slot in its new "Social Mobility" list, which measures how well schools graduate students who receive federal Pell Grants. In 2018, 54% of Pell recipients graduated in four years, and in 2019, 57% graduated. Westminster's overall four-year graduation rate for all students is 68%, with a six-year graduation rate of 73%.

WSJ/TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

Westminster continues to be ranked as one of the best colleges nationwide, according to the **Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education (WSJ/THE)** College Rankings 2020. Westminster, which has been listed annually since the ranking's 2016 inception, placed at 281 among the 986 U.S. colleges and universities recognized. Of the four key areas examined—resources, engagement, outcomes and environment—Westminster scored the strongest in the resources pillar, which represents 30% of the overall ranking. In this category, in WSJ/THE rated Westminster's capacity to effectively deliver teaching by examining costs per student, student-to-faculty ratio and the number of academic research papers published by faculty members.

MONEY MAGAZINE

Westminster was named to **Money** magazine's "2019 Best Colleges for Your Money" list based on quality of education, affordability and alumni financial success. This year's placement ranks Westminster above some Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education favorites and many other Pennsylvania private colleges as well, confirming that Westminster is one of the best value colleges in higher education. *Money's* rankings for the 744 eligible colleges and universities were based on the quality of education, affordability during college and student debt payoff rates after graduation, and alumni outcomes—all of which are critical conditions students evaluate before selecting a college.

An everlasting gift

Space dedicated to the Harmses to be housed in Hoyt addition



Since 1983, **Dr. Clarence Harms**—who joined Westminster’s biology faculty in 1969—has kept a watchful eye over the College’s Field Station, the 50-acre plot of land extending east from Brittain Lake to Fayette-New Wilmington Road. He has enthusiastically provided environmental education to hundreds of students and community members over the years, extolling the virtues of composting, recycling and solar energy.

And now, Harms—who, after 50 years with the College, is entering into full-time retirement—will continue to be remembered for his commitment to the environment and Westminster with the naming of a prominent space in the Hoyt Scienc Center addition. The future space in the Center for the Environment, which will honor Harms and his late wife, **Mary Ann Harms '79**, is made possible through a lead gift from **Dave and Kappy (Jackson) Sarver**, both class of 1973.

“With the renovation and expansion of Hoyt coinciding with his retirement from the Field Station, and after 50 years serving Westminster, this is the perfect opportunity to acknowledge and

honor his impact by having a space named for him and his late wife, Mary Ann,” the Sarvers said.

Additionally, the Sarvers are inviting more people to join them in honoring Dr. and Mrs. Harms through a challenge gift. The Sarvers will match up to \$25,000 in additional gifts made in honor of Harms towards the Hoyt project. For more information about how you can contribute, please contact **Andrew Youtz** at **724-946-7009** or **youtzaj@westminster.edu**.

The love and appreciation for Harms and his wife don’t end there, however. **Richard '70 and Barbara (Smith) '68 McKee** have also established the Clarence and Mary Ann (Wall) '79 Harms Scholarship for Excellence in Environmental Studies.

Dr. Clarence Harms, professor of biology emeritus, retired from the classroom in 2003 and continued his duties as director of the Field Station until this year. A special open house celebration honoring Harms for his 50 years of service was held during Homecoming Weekend.

“Excellent teachers are a bedrock of our society. Dr. Clarence Harms has been an outstanding teacher, professor and mentor to generations of Westminster students since 1969. With the renovation and expansion of Hoyt coinciding with his retirement from the Field Station, and after 50 years serving Westminster, this is the perfect opportunity to acknowledge and honor his impact by having a space named for him and his late wife, Mary Ann.

We are making this challenge grant believing there are many former students, colleagues and friends who may wish to join us in making this well-deserved recognition happen.”

Dave and Kappy (Jackson) Sarver, Class of 1973



WHY I GIVE



BRIAN PETRUS '10 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Home:

New Castle

Profession:

Assistant professor, Westminster College
President, PHRST & Company Inc.

Accomplishment:

As a result of Brian's dedication to giving back, he makes it part of his budget planning and earmarks a portion of his income to philanthropic investments.

Why Brian Gives:

"In a pay-it-forward fashion, I give because I was given to. Many scholarships are not gifted by any one particular individual, but are instead made up of numerous, smaller contributions from a vast array of donors. These seemingly minute contributions compound into generous amounts that help numerous students acquire the knowledge, skill, ability and other competencies needed in today's global economy. I think it is important to remember that small gifts have large impacts."

Campus welcomes new faculty

Three joined the Westminster faculty this fall: **Joni Darby, Tibor Solymosi** and **Andrew Withington**.

Darby, a registered nurse who holds a Bachelor of Science in

nursing from Pennsylvania State University and a master's in nursing education from Robert Morris University, joins the School of Life and Health Sciences as a lecturer. In addition to working directly in patient care at Sharon Regional Health System and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, she has served on the faculties at Waynesburg University, Penn State-Beaver, Youngstown State University and the Sharon Regional School of Nursing.

Solymosi joins the School of Arts and Humanities as a lecturer in philosophy. Prior to Westminster, he has served on the faculties at Allegheny College, Bowie State University, Mercyhurst University and Case Western Reserve University. He earned his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College and his master's and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University.

Withington traveled from New Zealand to join the School of Music as visiting assistant professor and director of choral activities. Withington earned his undergraduate degree and his Ph.D. from the University of Canterbury. He also holds a master's from the University of Auckland. He has conducted choirs of all levels—elementary, high school, college and community. As artistic director of the internationally acclaimed New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir, he conducted concerts in Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa.



Darby



Solymosi



Withington



CIVIC MINDED

State Rep. Mark Longiotti '85 answers questions during the first annual Youth Civic Engagement Symposium held in September. Hosted by Westminster College in conjunction with U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, the day-long event brought 200 high school students to campus to learn about the executive, legislative and judicial branches of federal, state and local government. Also pictured from left are fellow state representatives Chris Sainato, Parke Wentling, Aaron Bernstine and Tedd Nesbit.

Scouts eligible for new scholarship

Westminster College—in conjunction with the Lake Erie Council of the Boy Scouts of America—recently announced a new scholarship for students who are active Life or Eagle Scouts.

An unlimited number of Life or Eagle Scouts will be selected by Westminster College and awarded an \$18,500 annual and renewable Scouting Scholarship. The award can be renewed for up to four years provided the student maintains at least a 2.0 GPA while at Westminster.

The Scouting Scholarship is open to admitted Westminster students who are Life or Eagle Scouts and carry a high school GPA of 3.0.

“The characteristics of someone who has thrived in Scouting will translate well on our highly experiential and collaborative campus,” said **Dr. Jeffrey Coker**, vice president for academic affairs and enrollment and dean of the College. “We look forward to this scholarship paving the way for Scouting leaders to join the Westminster community for years to come.”

Public safety, facilities directors hired

Osmond Mbaeri and Jason Januszewicz have joined the Westminster staff as director of public safety and director of facilities operations, respectively.

Mbaeri, as director of public safety, is responsible for the administration, leadership and management of the Office of Public Safety to ensure the safety of the campus community and the security of College property. He most recently served as patrol sergeant at Swarthmore College from 2017-2019. He holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Widener University, where he was assistant director of public safety. Mbaeri served with the U.S. Army as a military police officer and attained the rank of captain. He completed a 12-month tour of duty in Afghanistan from 2005-2006. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.

“Mr. Mbaeri brings 10 years of direct experience in college safety and campus security to Westminster. His expertise in campus safety will better prepare Westminster as we respond to any future emergency or crisis,” said **Carlos Lassiter**, vice president for student affairs. “Mr. Mbaeri’s previous work with students, faculty and staff from diverse cultures around the world will be an asset to our campus community.”



Mbaeri



Januszewicz

As director of facilities operations, Januszewicz is overseeing the operation of the College’s facilities, which include custodial services, building maintenance, groundskeeping and the management of construction projects. He comes to Westminster from Bowling Green State University where he was associate director of facilities and operations since 2012. He previously served as assistant director of facilities at Mount Saint Mary College where he earned his bachelor’s and M.B.A. He also holds a Master of Technology in Construction Management degree from Bowling Green and numerous professional certifications.

“Jason has worked in both large university and small college environments and I am excited about the ideas that he can bring to Westminster to improve our campus,” said **Kenneth Romig ’85**, vice president for finance and management services.

WHY I GIVE



ALYSSA HANNA FALARSKI '12
BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS,
PEACE STUDIES

Home:
Pittsburgh

Profession:
Production and property manager,
31st Street Studios

Accomplishment:
Alyssa has given annually since graduation and almost exclusively towards the Westminster Fund. She believes that any donation amount is beneficial to Westminster students.

Why Alyssa Gives:
“I believe in giving money to places and organizations that made a positive impact on my life and will continue to affect my future. It’s no secret that Westminster gave me some of the best years of my life and put me on the right track for my career. But it’s more than that. I cannot think of a better place to contribute money than into the education of young minds. A solid education is the cornerstone for so much good in this world. I’m not just investing into something from my past—my money goes towards investing towards the future of many generations.”



Thompson-Clark now home to entrepreneurship hub

Student entrepreneurs now have a revamped space on campus to call their own. The Westminster Entrepreneurship Center—or WEC—has taken up residence on the second floor of Thompson-Clark.

The WEC serves as an entrepreneurial incubator and creativity lab for students serious about developing their own businesses. The WEC’s select students—the number of which has grown from roughly six in the fall of 2018 to today’s tally of 54—are chosen by the School of Business faculty and each has access to the center’s resources.

Renovated over the summer, the new space features a prototype lab with a mug press, a T-shirt vinyl lettering machine, a lathe, a 3-D printer and other tools to create promotional materials. The WEC Big Idea Center is used to hold individual project team meetings. A research office is a dedicated space for reaching out to investors, policy makers or attorneys, while the **Michael F. Anthony '77** Entrepreneurship Center Conference Room, with state-of-the-art audio-visual capabilities, is used for formal meetings. A multi-purpose classroom and a casual

gathering area round out the features of the center’s new space.

All WEC select students are involved in some of the due diligence external projects acquired from external sources, according to **Eric Gaber**, director of the WEC.

Gaber said there are 10 students whose individual ideas are at various stages of incubation. Each student also has been assigned a mentor, selected from Who’s Who of Corporate America. Last year the mentor pool was roughly 20—this year there are more than 65 mentors in the program.

“The WEC is an unparalleled asset to our student base because it is central to where we are and students can literally walk over and use state-of-the-art equipment and have access to industry experts and amazing external resources through the mentor program,” Gaber said.

This fall the WEC has also played host to several guest speakers from PNC Bank, Federal Home & Loan, Robert Lampl Attorneys and Venture For America.





A sneak peak

Inside the new Titan locker room

Thanks to the generosity of Westminster alumni and friends, the Titan football team now has an expanded place to hang their helmets.

The expanded and renovated locker room, dedicated on Oct. 24, meets the needs of the growing team. Locker count prior to the expansion was 108. Today, there is room for 149 lockers.

"We feel we have the best facilities in small college football, at least in this area," said sixth-year head coach **Scott Benzel**. "When you bring a recruit in, they walk in and see a brand new locker room, a brand new field, a recently upgraded weight room. It speaks again to the great alumni and support we have."

Entirely funded by donor support, the new and modern facility not only features new lockers and additional space, but a modern recruiting lounge showcasing the history of Titan football.

More than 130 donors contributed to the project, which totaled over \$750,000. Lead donor **Gary Brown '71** kicked off the project with a substantial initial gift made

in honor of his college roommate **Fritz Tobias '71**, co-captain of Westminster's national championship team. And in another generous motion, Board of Distinguished Visitors member **Lee Hite '66** and his wife, Janie, offered a match for all gifts until the project was fully funded.

"Without those donors, we do not grow as a program. It ties hand in hand. They believe in us. They see us winning games on the field and graduating student-athletes," said Benzel.

A team of alumni ambassadors helped reach out to potential donors for support. Ambassadors included **Joe Fusco '60, Dar Huey '74, Dave Gooch '75, Steve Ferringer '82, Andy Chomos '86, Frank Antuono '89, Brad Tokar '91, Scott Froelich '05, Jon Gubish '10** and **Dave Jamieson '18**.

From top: The new locker room now features 149 individual lockers; President Richardson and Coach Scott Benzel stand with donors Gary Brown '71, left, and Lee Hite '66, right; a couple of "Titans" greet visitors to the the new recruiting lounge; the lounge tells the story of Titan football.





Legally blind PAC champ has 20/20 focus

BY NATHAN LARICCIA | SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Through the half-focused volleyball net, you see the opponent orchestrating an offensive attack: dig, set, attack. The opponent's hitter directs the ball at you, hoping it finds the ground for a point. Time stands still. You remember passing around the volleyball with your sister in middle school. You remember having to wear a patch when you were younger to help with your vision. You come back to reality with the sound of the crowd anticipating the next action. You can see the ball better in this gym than last

week's, thanks to better lighting. You are in better position to counter the attack with a dig of your own, despite having just started playing the libero position due to the team needing you to switch from right side hitter to the one who wears a different colored shirt. Your teammates and coaches trust you and the feelings are mutual. You are Westminster College senior volleyball player **Josie Toporcer '20**.

Josie knew since she was 5 years old that—after all the doctor's appointments, the eye patch and everything else that

comes with having an eye disorder—it was all going to be worth it. Josie was determined to not let a vision impairment prevent her from playing the sport that she loved.

"Quitting is not an option in my household—never was," Josie said of her parents' and family's support. "Find a way, because that's what winners do. I really lucked out in the family department."

That drive and determination continue to steer Josie as Westminster's top defender. She is a leader of a team that

on Nov. 9 against Geneva, won its first Presidents' Athletic Conference Championship since 2008.

Josie started playing volleyball in sixth grade, years after she discovered she had amblyopia and astigmatism. A vision development disorder on her right eye that made her wear a patch on her "good" left eye in order to strengthen her bad one which was, as Josie described it, "a whopping 40/400." She remembered the patch (dark blue with yellow moons and stars on it to be exact). "I come from a long line of 'four eyes,'" Josie said. "My dad is color blind and most of my family wears glasses. So I grew up thinking that this was just a normal occurrence. When I was diagnosed with amblyopia, I was so young. It was a kind of shock..." Josie thought it was "kind of cool to be a pirate" when she was a kid and continues to have that positive attitude and thinking today wearing the Titan logo patch on her jersey.

She has a contact on her right eye, and for the most part she can see fine through it. However, if Josie closes that left eye and just looks with her right "bad" eye, she describes it as "everything looks darker...as if the static of a TV that has lost its signal..." Josie's optometrist stresses the importance of protecting her "good" eye and how vital it can be for just life let alone playing a sport. Only having one good eye has never deterred Josie from competing in sports. "If anything, I have learned to overcome internal frustrations due to some impairments. It has taught me to be kinder to myself and adapt to the situation," Josie said.

Despite only being able to see well in one eye, Josie leads the team and is ranked top-10 nationally in digs, a statistic that is crucial for a libero like herself. Being able to see the attack from the opponent's side of the net and anticipating the depth, speed, and trajectory all in a split second is not an easy task for anyone for that matter, let alone someone who is legally blind in one eye and was asked to change positions in her last year of competition. You will not hear Josie complain or make excuses. "There is no other option," she said. "The team needed that position filled and done well. I have to perform there to the best of my ability just like I expect our hitters and setters to do. I trust them and they trust me. The support from my team has been so helpful."

Josie doesn't see herself as doing anything more special than any other volleyball player. Her vision never seemed different to her or a reason not to play sports. "When you live with something for so long, you barely notice it anymore," said Josie. "When I was a kid, I thought nothing of it; everyone must see this way like me. Now I just need my glasses and a front row seat in class and I'll be just fine." She joked, "The wrinkles that I am accumulating from squinting so much is troublesome though!"

Life hands you a lot that is out of your control. You do have control, however, of your attitude and the way you adapt to your circumstance. Josie's positive attitude has carried on to the volleyball court. Her adaption has made her into one of the best liberos not only in the conference, but the country.

Not only does Josie credit her personal family's support in helping her, but her Westminster family as well. "Before a game at Waynesburg, I had a small bout of panic," Josie said. "The gym was not lit very well, making the balls dingy and everything a yellow color, all the makings of a difficult time for my eyesight. The team pulled me out of my head, refocused me and comforted me. We won!"

Josie does not play the "What if?" game. She does not think about how much easier it could be playing volleyball with two fully functional eyes or what kind of success that can come with. "Listen, life deals you the cards and you play them," Josie said. "I refuse to use my amblyopia as an excuse. I am so proud of all I've accomplished in my athletic and academic career; it'd be wasted time to think of what could have been if I had two perfect eyes. Every day I am working to reach my highest potential despite of some mild adversity, similar to everyone else."



Josie, center, with fellow senior players Haley Farmerie, left, and Reilly DeGeorge after their PAC Championship win.

When asked how she competes at such a high level playing collegiate volleyball, she responded, "Same way as everyone else, I guess: one ball at a time. I do still have a lot of trouble with depth perception, which is pretty important as a libero, but I try to compensate with visual focus, strong contacts and a prayer for good lighting in the gym. Everyday at practice, throughout my years in the sport, I have adapted my understanding and performance of the skills to skirt the eyesight issues."

Josie exemplifies what it means to be a true Titan. One who fights through adversity. One who trusts her teammates and coaches around her. One who does not make excuses, but creates solutions. She is an example to the people around her and to student-athletes everywhere. "To the kids with the odds stacked against them, be it medically or otherwise, I always found comfort in knowing that I am not the first person to play volleyball with a bad eye," she said. "If they can do it, so can I. Let your love and dedication to the game push you forward in overcoming adversity and becoming the best you can be." 🏐

KEEP ON CLIMBING

Alumni face Mt. Kilimanjaro, life's challenges

BY DANIELLE GRADY '20

Six days climbing. Five distinct ecological zones. Four years at Westminster. Three inspired men. Two cancer survivors. One summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Though the numbers of the story sound straightforward, the journey to the top of the tallest mountain in Africa was anything but for **Sean Swarner '97**, **Justin Nicolette '01** and **Dan Arnett '02**. While the Westminster alumni reached the mountain's Uhuru Peak the morning of Aug. 4, 2019, the origin of their trek goes back more than 30 years when Swarner was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 13.

After undergoing treatment and beating the terminal cancer, Swarner faced a second, unrelated cancer diagnosis three years later. While battling Askin's sarcoma, doctors gave Swarner a prognosis of 14 days to live and he was read his last rites. Yet, he defied the odds once again and has been in remission for nearly 25 years.

In the midst of recovery, Swarner studied psychology at Westminster, where he met Nicolette and Arnett through mutual friends. Nicolette and Arnett grew close as fraternity brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi, and the pair

remained friends following graduation. However, they didn't reconnect with Swarner until 2014, when Arnett received a Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis.

The disease was stage four when doctors caught it, and Arnett had a sizeable mass behind his breastbone and fluid around his heart. But, after six months of chemotherapy and one month of radiation, Arnett was cancer free and today is in his fifth year of remission.

After deepening their friendship through their cancer experiences, Swarner approached Arnett in 2016, inquiring if he would be interested in a trip with the CancerClimber Association (CCA). The organization, which Swarner co-founded, works to help cancer survivors live active, healthy lifestyles after beating their prognoses. Each year, the CCA leads a group to Tanzania to climb the 19,341-foot Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak on the African continent. CCA awarded Arnett with an Adventure Support Grant, which provide cancer survivors financial, gear and training support.

"I wanted to prove to myself and others that I could do this neat and physically demanding thing less than two years after finishing up treatment," Arnett said.

Over the next couple of years, Arnett shared stories of his climb with Nicolette, an experienced triathlon competitor, in hopes that his friend might join him on a future climb. Climbing the mountain was on Nicolette's and his wife's bucket list, and the CCA Kilimanjaro trip was the perfect opportunity.

"I lost my mother to cancer in February 2018, so the idea of climbing for her, checking an item off my bucket list and flying around the world with my wife and one of my best friends was too appealing to not go," Nicolette said.

Once it was decided that Swarner, Arnett and Nicolette would make the trip, the trio began planning the excursion to reach the top of the glacier-capped mountain. Swarner and his team led the preparations for the climb,

providing advice and training encouragement throughout the process.

Though the 37-mile Machame Route, also known as the Whiskey Route for its intoxicating views, led them through multiple ecosystems—from lush rainforest to alpine desert to arctic snowcap—the climbers had no way of knowing what kind of weather Mother Nature would throw at them along the way. In just one day, the group experienced sun, rain, sleet and snow.

As with most climbs, Swarner said that it was not without trials and tribulations. A wave of what they believe was altitude sickness or a gastrointestinal infection hit several members of the group the day before they were to reach the summit. However, because this particular group had such strong comradery, they were able to take care of each other and pull through as a team.

“This was probably the most cohesive and supportive group I’ve ever led up the mountain,” Swarner said. “Of course it’s always amazing getting people to the top, but when you have a group that really sticks together like this one did, lifelong bonds are forged.”

Arnett echoed Swarner’s sentiment when reflecting upon the extreme cold and relentless wind the group faced during their arduous climb.

“The most memorable thing that I will carry all my days about this trip and this team is how dedicated and determined they all were,” Arnett said. “I have never witnessed such determination in the face of adversity and challenge.”

Although Nicolette also appreciated the comradery among the group, his driving force up the mountain was a Swahili term that the guides repeated often: “pole, pole,” which means “slowly, slowly.”

“Slowly. I started thinking that everything is possible when you take your time, focus on the tasks at hand, center yourself on what’s important, remember your why, remember to be present, slow down and be successful,” Nicolette said.

Of course, the alumni did not make the summit empty handed—they brought a Westminster pennant to the peak with them. The men said that many of the lessons they either learned or strengthened at Westminster helped guide them on their trek up Kilimanjaro.



Alumni climbers, from left, Dan Arnett '02, Sean Swarner '97 and Justin Nicolette '01.

For Swarner, the psychology degree he earned combined with the social aspect he experienced helped him bring out the best in others. He now understands the psychosocial aspect of motivating and inspiring people, as well as the social constructs of communication.

Nicolette said that Westminster encouraged independence, initiative and an immense appreciation for true friendship—valuable traits that guide him daily.

As for Arnett, Westminster taught him that there is opportunity all around and connecting with something greater than yourself will fill your life with a sense of purpose. And meaningful relationships—like those with Nicolette and Swarner—are special gifts.

Though all three men were no strangers to tests of strength or stamina, Mt. Kilimanjaro’s unpredictable nature reminded them of the unexpected turns in the odyssey of life. With perseverance, proper preparation and taking the journey “pole, pole”—sometimes with the greatest of friends—you can reach heights never dreamed possible. ❧



Are you interested in learning more about CCA or would you like to join them in an upcoming trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro? If so, please contact Sean Swarner at sean@cancerclimber.org.

Alumna discovers what makes her ‘tick’



BY DANIELLE GRADY '20

After conducting aquatics research in fisheries and briefly considering medical school, Westminster College alumna **Erin Hassett '17** has decided that the bug life is for her.

Hassett, who earned her bachelor's degree in environmental science in 2017, is currently pursuing her master's degree in entomology—the study of insects—at Cornell University.

Because she is specifically researching vector-borne diseases, she is studying insects that carry diseases, particularly those that are of public health importance.

Though Hassett sometimes works with mosquitoes, she is primarily interested in tick-borne diseases. She credits her interest in the field of study to **Dr. Diana Ortiz**, assistant professor of biology at Westminster.

“Dr. Diana Ortiz was critical in helping me choose my career path, and her support pushed me to apply to Cornell's program,” Hassett said. “She has been one of my biggest influencers in my academic career.”

She also found guidance and inspiration in **Dr. Helen Boylan**, director the Center for the Environment and professor of chemistry, and **Dr. Clarence Harms**, professor of biology *emeritus* and recently retired director of the Westminster Field Station.

“I really admire Dr. Boylan's passion, drive and enthusiasm for environmental concerns, and she always gave me support and valuable feedback,” Hassett said.

“And Dr. Harms is a constant inspiration to me and has helped me understand what is important in life,” Hassett said. “I don't think I would be where I am now without the advice, wisdom and friendship he has given me over the past six years.”

After completing her undergraduate degree, Hassett knew she was not yet ready to pursue graduate school. Instead, she chose to take a gap year, in hopes of making herself more competitive and skilled before applying.

“Outside of Westminster, taking a gap year to gain more experience was one of the best decisions I made,” Hassett said.

Hassett's gap year took her to Nashville, where she worked at the Tennessee Department of Health. Her interest in entomology grew as she focused on mosquito disease surveillance and pesticide resistance testing there. This drove Hassett to apply to Cornell, as the university was introducing its new entomology program with a concentration in vector-borne diseases at the conclusion of her gap year.

This past summer, Hassett's studies at Cornell took her to Staten Island, New York, where she visited three different parks to study if people's behavior in public parks put them at risk for encountering ticks. To do this, Hassett observed human movement in different park spaces and collected and identified more than 10,000 ticks. She also interviewed about 200 individuals to learn more about their level of knowledge regarding ticks and tick-borne diseases, their attitudes towards the severity of tick-borne diseases and their behaviors in protecting themselves from ticks when they go outside.

Hassett's finding that people are very interested in talking about ticks, especially as they pertain to Lyme disease, prompted a radio show host to invite her on-air to discuss her work with “Shoe Shoe & Lemonade Radio & Podcast.”

“It is always great to know that people are interested in your work, and it gave me a strong satisfaction knowing that I was able to help educate the public and potentially make a difference,” Hassett said.

In regards to tick safety during the fall tick season, Hassett suggests taking precautions both before and after entering a potential tick habitat. Prior to possible interaction, people should tuck their pants into their socks, wear light-colored clothing so they can easily see ticks on them and apply bug spray—even in the fall.

Then, following outdoor activities, people should conduct body checks, focusing on small places on their bodies, and take a shower. Hassett also encourages people to know what ticks look like. 🐷



TEN THINGS TITAN

10 THINGS MAKING US PRETTY TITAN PROUD RIGHT NOW

PICK-6 RECORD

2. The Westminster football team matched the NCAA record with four interception returns for a touchdown in the Titans' 66-7 victory over Capital



University. Senior **Aaron Pierce** had two pick-sixes (including a 97-yarder), earning him a spot on ESPN SportsCenter's Top 10. This marked the first time an NCAA Division III team had four pick-sixes in a

single game since 1999. The four pick-sixes also tied an NCAA Division I FCS and FBS records.

HIGH HONORS

3. **Jacklyn Gates '04**, a scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE)



Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, was among 315 researchers who received the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on early-career researchers. Jacklyn is the Heavy Elements Group Leader in Berkeley Lab's Nuclear Science Division.

\$9,002,447.84

1. This very long number represents the total funds Westminster's alumni and friends contributed to the college between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. In fact, last fiscal year, a total of 4,158 alumni and friends made contributions—all of which directly impact Westminster students. We're so proud and grateful to our generous donors. If you haven't yet given this fiscal year, Giving Tuesday (Dec. 3) is right around the corner. Check out www.givecampus.com/schools/WestminsterCollege and discover all the ways you can benefit our students.



Gene DeCaprio Day 2019

5. **Gene DeCaprio '49**, retired director of Celebrity Series, received special recognition on July 3, the day of the annual Westminster Independence Day Celebration. Officially deemed "Gene DeCaprio Day," Gene was awarded an official Pennsylvania House of Representatives citation for his decades of volunteer work. Above, Gene is congratulated by state Rep. Parke Wentling, left, state Rep. Chris Sainato, second from right, and Westminster College President **Dr. Kathy Brittain Richardson**.

PAC ATTACK

4. The fall sports teams were no strangers to PAC competition this year. The volleyball team clinched the PAC Championship trophy this fall, while the men's soccer, women's soccer and women's tennis teams all made it to the PAC Semifinals. The women's golf team is currently first in the PAC Championships and the men's team is second. Go, Titans!





160

6. The number of alumni—including, from left, **Jametrius Bentley '17**, **Jordyn Kee '17** and **Michael Brooks '14**—who generously volunteered their time and returned to campus to participate in this year's Professional Networking Seminar on Sept. 21. This annual event connects students with alumni and industry professionals.



Eat. Wash. Repeat.

7. This fall, Duff Dining—in an effort to reduce single-use plastic—began offering **reusable containers** for students who like to take their meals to-go. Students wishing to participate put down a small deposit, take their food to go and return the container and trade it in for a new, clean one. Easy peasy.



Novel debut

8. *Television Man*, a novel written by **Dr. David Swerdlow**, professor of English, was released this fall. Published by Czykmate Productions, David's debut novel centers around a small western Pennsylvania town in the aftermath of a school shooting. The book tells the troubling stories of the community's residents as they navigate the 48 hours following the horrifying assault.

Girl Power

9. **Rachel Woofter Kopper '91** was elected president of Women in Bio (WIB), a national organization of professionals dedicated to promoting careers, leadership and entrepreneurship for women in the life sciences. Kopper was instrumental in founding the WIB chapter in Pittsburgh in 2012. She is currently director of business operations and finance for Knopp Biosciences LLC, a drug discovery and development company.



and 10. HALFTIME IS **GAME TIME**

The 90-member **Westminster College Titan Marching Band** was selected to play before a crowd of 60,000 at Heinz Field on Oct. 28 during halftime of the Pittsburgh Steelers-Miami Dolphins Monday Night Football game. With only eight minutes on the field, the band performed a quick set of Foo Fighters' "All My Life," "In Caelum Fero" from composer Karl Jenkins, The Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby" and Stravinsky's "Firebird." **And how about those new threads?** Thanks to contributions from alumni and friends to the **#dresstheband** campaign, the band was able to update their 20-year-old uniforms.



TITAN STRONG

Titan Sports Hall of Fame | 2019 Inductees

PAT BOYLE '04 BASEBALL

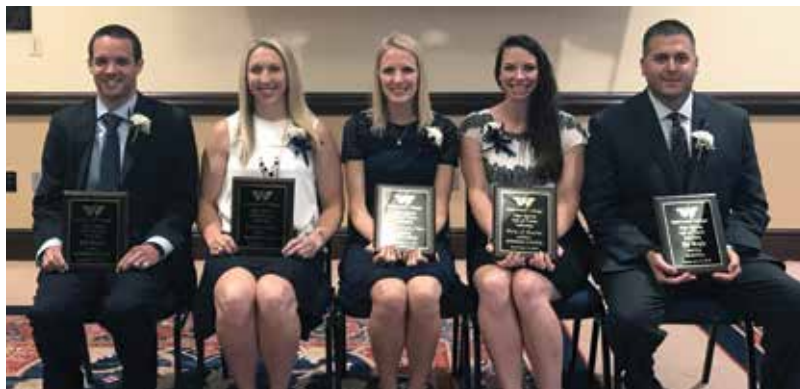
Pat Boyle '04 was a four-year letterman as a pitcher. Boyle holds multiple Westminster records in both career (*wins 25; innings pitched 232*) and single season (*wins 11; innings pitched 82*), and strikeouts (*111*). Boyle's conference honors include All-PAC First Team honors as a junior and PAC Coaches' Honors as a freshman and sophomore. Boyle also earned an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) D-II All-Star selection and Team MVP as a sophomore. Boyle was part of a Westminster team that was the ECAC D-II runner-up in 2001 and 2002. The Titan baseball team accumulated an 84-56 record during his career.

PAT SMITH '07 SWIMMING & DIVING

Pat Smith '07, a four-year letterman in swimming and diving and a two-time team captain during his junior and senior seasons, earned NCAA Division III All-America honors in the 400-medley relay and honorable mention All-America recognition in the 200-medley relay. His conference accolades include earning All-PAC First Team four times, being one of only four male Titan swimmers in the program's history to win the same event at a conference championship meet four years in a row (*200 backstroke*) and winning the PAC Championship in the 100 backstroke twice. He set one individual and was part of two relay-event school records, in addition to a PAC individual event record. He was a College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Academic All-American as a senior and twice earned PAC Academic Honor Roll accolades. His teams compiled a record of 33-7-1 in dual meets with three PAC Championships. He was named to the 60th Anniversary All-PAC Swimming & Diving Team.

KATELYN KUSHNER NEAL '09 TRACK & FIELD

Katelyn Kushner '09, a four-year letter winner, held a wide variety of accolades in the PAC, including being a four-time All-PAC First Team performer, a four-time PAC Champion in the 400-meter hurdles, a three-time PAC Champion in the 100-meter hurdles and a two-time PAC Champion in the 4x400 meter relay. Kushner was also named to 60th Anniversary All-PAC Outdoor Track & Field Team. Kushner held the school record in both hurdle events at the time of her graduation and was a key performer on the 2008 and 2009 PAC Championship Track & Field teams. Kushner was also named Team MVP in 2007 and was a PAC Academic Honor Roll recipient.



The 2019 Titan Sports Hall of Fame inductees are, from left, Pat Smith '07, Courtney Herdt '11, Katelyn Kushner Neal '09, Emily Dressler '10 and Pat Boyle '04.

EMILY DRESSLER '10 SWIMMING & DIVING

Emily Dressler '10, a two-time NCAA Division III All-America Honorable Mention, ranks first in school history in the 500 free (*5:02.09*), 1000 free (*10:37.45*) and 1650 free (*17:27.36*) and second in the 200 free (*1:53.83*). She is also a member of three school-record holding relays in the 400 medley (*3:51.37*), the 400 free (*3:33.93*), and the 800 free (*7:43.73*). A two-time First Team All-PAC performer, she was named a PAC Co-MVP at the 2009 league championships. She was a three-time PAC champion in the 500 free and was a two-time PAC champion in the 200 free and the 1650 free. She was also part of the 400 medley relay that claimed conference titles in 2007 and 2009. She was a two-time CSCAA Scholar All-American, earned Westminster's Gene Nicholson Swimmer & Diver Scholar Award twice and appeared on the PAC Academic Honor Roll three times. She was named to the 60th Anniversary All-PAC Swimming & Diving Team.

COURTNEY HERDT '11 SWIMMING & DIVING

Courtney Herdt '11 was a four-time All-America honoree and ranks second in Westminster College history in the 100 breast (*1:02.85*) and 200 breast (*2:17.05*). She earned First Team All-PAC accolades three times and was the PAC champion in the 100 breast and 200 breast in 2011. She was also a member of the 400 medley relay that won PAC titles in 2010 and 2011. Herdt was a two-time CSCAA Scholar All-American and was named to the 60th Anniversary All-PAC Swimming & Diving Team.

To nominate a former athlete to the Titan Sports Hall of Fame, go to athletics.westminster.edu/hofnominations



HOMECOMING *and* REUNION WEEKEND

October 11, 12 & 13, 2019

Reunited and it feels so good.

EACH YEAR, ANNIVERSARY CLASSES AND CLUSTERS ARE INVITED TO GATHER FOR A REUNION PHOTO. IT'S A GREAT TIME TO MEET FRIENDS, SHARE STORIES AND REMINISCE BEFORE HEADING TO LUNCH OR THE FOOTBALL GAME. IF YOUR REUNION YEAR IS NEXT YEAR, MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!



CLASS OF 1969



Members of the Class of 1969 celebrated their Golden Anniversary at this year's Homecoming. **Row 1 from left:** Bill Bolyard, Margie Starrett Tompkins, Joanne Stone Morrissey, Laurie Thornhill Leith, Judy Palagallo Price, Melody Snellings, Daniel Barnes, Jonathan Contompasis. **Row 2 from left:** William Daugherty, Milann Ruff Daugherty, Suzanne Tesh Rice, Robert Rice, Martha Smith Mallick, Linda Wiggins Martin, Lee Toal Satrom, Donna Ross Woleben. **Row 3 from left:** Ed Black, Walt Kennedy, Linda Ley Rider, Ernest Bodo, John Best, Jeff Peck, LoAnn Christy Fairman, Michelle Smargiasso. **Row 4 from left:** John Ourant, William Frazier, Cathy Sargent Mester, Cynthia Wetherhill King, Lawrence "Doc" Nelson, Bruce Harrison, Nancy Myers Geilfuss. **Row 5 from left:** Carol Cary Taylor, Beverly Michael Higgins, Cathy McCauley Floriani, Carolyn Cowles Fraser, Susan McGeary Goughler, Frank Simms, Allyson Lampe Hopkins. **Row 6 from left:** Noel Wurst, Bob Stanhope, David Dawson, Chenits Pettigrew.

TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM OTHER REUNION CLASSES, GO ONLINE AT WWW.WESTMINSTER.EDU/REUNIONPICS

1969 FLASHBACK





2019 HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

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Faith Howell and Brandon Williams were crowned the 2019 Homecoming Queen and King.



The 2019 Alumni Award recipients are, from left, Stephen Keener '80, Robert Buehner Jr. '75, Matthew Bickert '11, Emma Messett '20 and LeeAnn Fulena '89.

The Westminster College Alumni Citations—presented each year during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend—recognizes those who have achieved significant accomplishments in their professions or made meaningful contributions to the community or Westminster. The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes alumni of 15 years or less who are making significant contributions as they build careers and serve their communities or Westminster. The Rising Titan Award is given to a current student who shows extraordinary promise to serving the community.

Alumni Citations

ROBERT BUEHNER '75

Robert Buehner, who earned his juris doctorate from Dickinson School of Law, was elected Montour County district attorney in 1992. During his 20-year tenure as district attorney, he served as president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and as spokesman for Pennsylvania's prosecutors in matters of statewide importance. He was featured on several national media forums and continues to serve as commentator for several newspapers on criminal justice matters. Following his retirement as district attorney, he served as an adjunct faculty member at Westminster, teaching criminal justice studies courses pro bono. Because of his professional background, he was often sought out as a mentor by many students seeking careers in the criminal justice system. He was a member of Westminster's Board of Trustees from 2008-2016 and also served on Bloomsburg University's Council of Trustees. He resides in Danville.

STEPHEN KEENER '80

Stephen Keener serves as the president and chief executive officer of Little League International, positions he has held since 1994 and 1996, respectively. During his tenure, the world's largest youth sports organization experienced rapid expansion, including the establishment of the Little League Urban Initiative, expansion of the Little League Baseball® World Series from eight teams to 16, continued development of the use of technology, a formal partnership with Major League Baseball and further international growth. He resides in Williamsport.

LEEANN FULENA '89

LeeAnn Fulena, who earned her juris doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, is a partner at Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP, where her practice includes multiple areas of litigation, estate planning and probate and corporate law. She has served on numerous community outreach boards and was a 2019 Lawrence/Mercer ATHENA honoree for her mentoring and leadership skills. Among her leisure activities is making Charitable Charms, a line of jewelry whose profits are donated to her favorite charities. Fulena resides in New Castle.

Young Alumni Award

MATTHEW BICKERT '11

Matthew Bickert spent four years in the technical field as a business analyst before joining the Peace Corps as a community economic development advisor in a rural community in Paraguay. He learned Spanish and technical competencies to develop and implement community projects with host-country nationals. He was selected to join the programming team and served an additional year as sector coordinator. He completed his service in June and has relocated to the Pittsburgh area.

Rising Titan Award

EMMA MESSETT '20

Emma Messett, a senior pursuing an interdisciplinary business management and social policy degree with minors in accounting and human resources, is president of Westminster's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, vice president of finance for the Students of Westminster Admissions Team and a member of Pi Sigma Pi academic honors society. She has completed internships at the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County, Reach Beyond mission in Austin, Texas, and the Right2Know campaign in Cape Town, South Africa. Passionate about service and sustainability initiatives, especially regarding social justice, she seeks to pursue a career on the executive team of a nonprofit organization. She is from Sharpsville.

TITAN SPOTLIGHT

CAPTURING THE STREET SURVIVORS

ALUMNUS DOCUMENTING ROCK LEGEND LYNYRD SKYNYRD

BY BRADLEY WEAVER | PHOTOS BY DOLTYN SNEDDEN '17



Above, Lynyrd Skynyrd, photographed by Doltny Snedden '17, on their Last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour. Below, Snedden adjusts his camera backstage during one of the shows on the tour.

The opening chords of “Free Bird” signal the final song of the night for Lynyrd Skynyrd fans at a live performance at Stagecoach Music in Indio, California. Capturing the moments on video at that April concert was the band’s 24-year-old cinematographer and 2017 Westminster College graduate **Doltny Snedden**.

When Snedden was hired to chronicle the band’s final spin around the globe on their Last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour, he gained an all-access pass to the Southern rock band whose sound helped define the 1970s. For nearly two years, Snedden has traveled to Canada, Germany, Belgium and the U.K. with the legendary rockers, taking official photos, working social media and gathering footage to produce a documentary about the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame group.

“Essentially, my job is to capture the essence of them in the modern day while trying to restore and keep that historical value,” said Snedden of the work that goes into documenting a rock band like Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Lynyrd Skynyrd formed in 1964 and released the iconic “Free Bird” in 1973, 21 years before Snedden was born. With some of the

band members old enough to be Snedden’s grandfather, some might expect a millennial would struggle with the generation gap, but Snedden said that hasn’t been the case. Instead there is a mutual respect for each other’s craft.

“I’m the only photographer in the entire world right now that has shots of the modern-day band. They’ve never taken a photographer out on the road with them,” said Snedden, who earned his degree in media art and design. “They chose me out of anybody else in this entire world to take the last photo of Lynyrd Skynyrd on stage. I feel like that’s a very valuable thing in history.”

The farewell tour, which concluded in October in California, included in memoriam moments to honor late lead vocalist Ronnie Van Sant, guitarist Steve Gaines and backup singer Cassie Gaines, who all perished in a plane crash in 1977, just days after the release of the band’s fifth album, *Street Survivors*. The crash ended the original band, but Lynyrd Skynyrd reformed in 1987 with Van Sant’s brother, Johnny, at the helm.

While Snedden has been tapped to produce a feature-length documentary of the band’s farewell tour, a short production was released for a one-day showing in select theaters nationwide in early November. ➤

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI COUNCIL



Greetings my fellow Titans!

Here on campus, we recently wrapped up another successful Homecoming weekend. One of my favorite parts of that weekend was hearing all the stories about past times and the treasured memories of Mother Fair, whether it be from someone who graduated a few short years ago or someone celebrating their 50th class reunion!

Being able to spend so much time on campus during Homecoming allowed me to reflect on one of our current strategic goals: revitalizing campus. As such, updates are happening all over, not just in physical appearance, but in what makes Westminster the wonderful place it is: the students, the faculty/staff/administration and the alumni. There is always foot traffic coming or going towards Memorial Field House, no matter what time of day! There is also a renewed sense of commitment in supporting the College, not only in campus projects (did you see the new band uniforms?), but also in improving the student experience. There is an excitement and energy amongst the Alumni Council that is contagious and I believe other alumni and friends of the College are taking notice, as well. As we roll out new initiatives to further engage our alumni base, I encourage you to help Council by spreading the word of how great Westminster is and reconnect with your fellow alumni and our current students. It is my hope that you invested in our recent #WCGivingTuesday campaign that offered alumni various projects through which they could support the student experience. If so, then you, too, have helped to further our campus revitalization tactic; and we are immensely thankful for your help.

I hope that you take some time to explore the alumni page on the College's website to see how you can get involved or to see what events are happening on campus. Also check out the Professional Development Center's (PDC) page to find out more about volunteer opportunities in the career realm and learn how you can also benefit from what the PDC offers alumni. Most importantly, we hope you will take time to help build our Titan community by recommending a student who you feel would be a great fit for Westminster. Recommending a prospective student is easy: simply go to www.westminster.edu/recommend. There is no limit to how many students you can refer, so keep those names coming!

In closing, I encourage you to (re)connect with our dear Mother Fair in a way that feels most meaningful to you and spread your love for her so that we as alumni can support her and help her to keep thriving for many years to come!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Arblaster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Surgenor Arblaster '02
Alumni Council President

CLASS NOTES | *Titans doing incredible things.*



PASS ALONG YOUR NOTES

*Do you have news
you'd like to share with
your fellow Titans?
Send your class note to
us and we'll publish it
in an upcoming issue of
the magazine.*

ONLINE

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MAIL

Westminster College
Office of Alumni Engagement
319 S. Market St.
New Wilmington, PA 16172

1961



Emily Wilson-Orzechowski, pictured at left, retired nearly 20 years ago as the

writing center director of Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., and has continued to work for the Educational Testing Service, spending 13 years in Tennessee, five in California and returning to New York. She has expanded her lifelong interest as a "maker" by studying weaving in Cherry Valley, N.J., with renowned weaver Rabbit Goody. Emily and her husband, Stan, live in Oneonta.

1964

The Rev. Robert Kennedy was honored for his 50 years' service as an ordained pastor in Beaver Butler Presbytery at Ohio Presbyterian Church.

Sally Doremus McClean was honored with the Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award 2018-2019 at Montgomery College in Rockville, Md., where she has taught English and film for nearly 20 years.

1967

Dr. Martha Bruce M'67 was honored on the occasion of her 90th birthday with a book of memories and thanks from the many children whose lives she touched throughout her career in education. In the mid-1970s she traveled to Nigeria, eventually staying for seven years to teach at a local college in Owerri.



On the weekends she held story time for children, helping them to read, write, interact socially and learn more about the world around them. The book is available on the Books on Hold shelf in Westminster's McGill Library.

A summer to remember

Carol Paulie Mansfield '58 and her husband, **Jack Mansfield '59**, pictured below left, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June wearing their Westminster T-shirts. The celebration continued in August with a trip to Dingle, Ireland, with Carol's roommates and Theta Upsilon sorority sisters **Ginny Shannon '58** and **Peggy Bickel Messner '58**. Pictured below right with an Irish resident, second from left, are Shannon, far left, Messner and Mansfield.





Jack Ridl recently published his 12th book, *Saint Peter and the Goldfinch*, a collection of poems, and was named Poet Laureate for Life by the town of Douglas, Mich.

Jack leads workshops and one-on-one sessions at home and online and posts "In Time" each Thursday at www.ridl.com. He and his wife, Julie, make their home in Saugatuck, Mich.

1971

Patti Chapman Snyder was recently named by the Countryside Country Club in Clearwater, Fla., as Mrs. Countryside 2019, an honor given annually to one man and one woman who have shown great commitment to volunteering in the Clearwater community. Patti has spent her retirement volunteering for the North Pinellas Women's Club, Random Acts of Flower, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Tampa Bay Area Alpha Gamma Delta Alumnae Chapter and others.

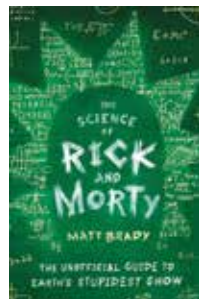
1975

Fred Kriess retired from Inframark and is the founder and president of The Kriess Advisory Group, LLC, a firm focused on providing solutions to help municipalities with their water/wastewater utility needs. He has established AZRxMusic and is a performing musician in the Phoenix area.

1982

Judy Mitchell was named stated clerk of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve in Cleveland. She retired six years ago after more than 30 years as a mathematics teacher.

1991



Matt Brady's book, *The Science of Rick and Morty: The Unofficial Guide to the World's Stupidest Show*, was released in October.

Matt teaches high school physics and chemistry; teaches science communication at Wake Forest

University; runs www.thescienceof.org; and founded The Science of Winston-Salem, a nonprofit that seeks to train STEM docents to reach out into the community to present science.

1994

Dr. Richard Guthrie



was appointed senior associate consultant in palliative medicine at Mayo Clinic Arizona. He and his wife, Dr. Kiran Mishra, and their two sons live in Litchfield Park, Ariz.

Todd Hervey earned an Emmy Award for his work as producer, director and director of photography on the documentary, "Blackbird: Legacy of Innovation!" The historical documentary, which aired on Virginia PBS station WCVE, traces the development of the SR-71 Blackbird strategic reconnaissance aircraft.

1995

Thomas "T.J." Greggs-Edwards was named assistant director for student housing facilities and operations at Emory University. (See also *Weddings*)

1996



Valery Steffler Ciarimboli, senior director of ecommerce operations and a 13-year employee of Giant Eagle, was honored in the Rising Star category of Progressive Grocer's 2019 Top Women in Grocery.

2006

Dina Linn received the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the third-highest award a Navy civilian can earn, for her leadership in successfully managing the National



Bonding over baseball

From left, **Barbara Lefferts Townsend '79** and **Pete Lefferts '78** meet up with **Tom Carver**, Westminster Dean of Students from 1971-1978, and his wife, **Betty**, at the Atlanta Braves vs. Philadelphia Phillies baseball game in Atlanta on July 3.

Naval Aviation Museum's reaccreditation through the American Alliance of Museums. A supervisory museum curator (aeronautics), Dina was accepted as one of 17 Navy civilians nationwide to attend the strenuous Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program 2019.



Jessica Altman Turcotte of Cranberry was promoted to chief operating officer at Vision Benefits of America.

2010

Jordan Early has been named executive producer at the CBS affiliate KEYE-TV in Austin, Texas.

2012

Kalyn Stewing and her husband, Felix Rivera-Merced earned master of divinity degrees from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May and have moved to St. Louis. (See also *New Additions*)

2016

Joe Ligo was named series producer for Maryland Public Television's popular series "Maryland Farm & Harvest."

2017

Connor Hamilton has been named associate news producer and digital web producer at the CBS owned-and-operated Pittsburgh television station KDKA-TV.



Shane Wilson was honored with Educator of the Year by Louisa County (Va.) Public School District. He is a third-grade science and social studies teacher at Moss-Nuckels Elementary School in Louisa.



Excellence in teaching

Darcie O'Neill Shaffer '92, a fourth-grade teacher, was honored in April 2019 with the Outstanding Educator Award for the Lakeview School District in Stoneboro. Pictured with Lakeview School District Superintendent **Dr. Hendley Hoge M'85**, Shaffer was one of 15 educators recognized at a ceremony at the Buhl Casino in Sharon. Presented by the Shenango Valley and Lawrence County chambers of commerce and the Laurel Technical Institute, the awards are presented annually to teachers and administrators from Mercer and Lawrence counties. Darcie, who also serves as the assistant speech and debate coach, has been with the district for 22 years. She and her husband, Todd, and two daughters live in Hermitage. Also honored was **William Dzuricko '81**, a teacher with the Hermitage School District.

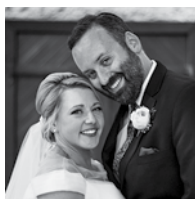


HOMECOMING *and* **REUNION WEEKEND**
OCTOBER 2-4, 2020

WEDDINGS | *Love always.*



Biel-Theders



Gorski-Brown



Owens-Bricker

1988

Kelly Calderwood and Edward McKissick, June 23, 2017. The couple lives in Butler, where Kelly is coordinator of professional education and certificate programs at Butler County Community College.

1995

Thomas "T.J." Greggs and Aaron Deshea Edwards, Aug. 21, 2017, in Marietta, Ga. The couple resides in Conyers, Ga., with their four dogs, Watson, Zina, Pugsley and Belle. (See also *Class Notes*)

2005

▲ **Michelle Biel** and Stephen Theders, Sept. 23, 2017, in Annapolis. The couple and their son live in La Plata, Md., where Michelle is a special education teacher in the Charles County Public Schools. (See also *New Additions*)

2009

▲ **Gwen Gorski** and Greg Brown, May 26, 2019, at the Historic Wren Chapel in Williamsburg, Va. The wedding party included **Amanda Conway Mason** and

Elizabeth Beardsley Dustin '10. The couple lives in Williamsburg, where they are student affairs educators for neighboring universities.

2011

▲ **Deanna Owens** and Kyle Bricker, Aug. 3, 2019, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. **Nicole Zappa** was in the wedding party and attendees included **Brian Kotun** and **Kelsey Weightman-Kotun**, **Alicia Pabrinkis-Erevia '12** and **Megan Sherry**. The couple lives in Kittanning.

REFER A STUDENT TO WESTMINSTER

Alumni have a unique perspective on what it means to be a Westminster College student.

Westminster College is more than just a place on the map. It is a community where you lived, learned and evolved. You built relationships, studied hard, collaborated with professors and peers and designed your own future.

Because you have experienced the Titan lifestyle first hand, we invite you to recommend a high school student to Westminster.

If you know someone ready to take the next step in their educational journey, let us know. Our trained admissions counselors will reach out and help them explore their options at Westminster College.

Simply go online to www.westminster.edu/recommend.



NEW ADDITIONS | *Welcome, Tiny Titans.*



Madelynn Morton Theodore Theders Claire Kyser Declan Hoffman



Benjamin Pulpan Braxton Byce Chandler Horvath Tyler Huelsing Miguel Rivera-Stewwing

2003

▲ **Catherine Heidrich Morton** and her husband, Raymond: a daughter, Madelynn, on March 5, 2018. She is the Mortons' third child and grandchild of the **Rev. Harry Heidrich '69**. The family lives in Manassas, Va.

2005

▲ **Michelle Biel Theders** and her husband, Steve: a son, Theodore Stephen, on Jan. 30, 2019. (See also *Weddings*)

▲ **Sarah Ubry** and Mike Kyser: a daughter, Claire Jane, on May 7, 2019. The family lives in New Castle.

2006

▲ **Megan McConnell Hoffman M'16** and her husband, Steve: a son, Declan Andrew, on March 1, 2019. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

▲ **Heather Jones Pulpan** and her husband, Shawn: a son, Benjamin Francis, on March 1, 2019. Heather resigned as director of marketing for a software company to become a stay-at-home mom in Pittsburgh.

2007

▲ **Emily Wall Byce** and her husband, David: a son, Braxton Anthony, on Jan. 12, 2019. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

Stephanie Martin Kerns and her husband, **Matthew Kerns**: a son, Jameson Samuel, on July 29, 2019. The family lives in North Little Rock, Ark.

2008

▲ **Brittany McKee Horvath** and her husband, **Garrett Horvath**: a daughter, Chandler, on April 28, 2018. She joins big sister, Charleston.

2011

▲ **Kimberly Dobberstein Huelsing** and her husband, Andrew: a son, Tyler Lawrence, on June 20, 2019. The family lives in St. Louis.

2012

▲ **The Rev. Kalyn Stewwing** and her husband, the Rev. Felix Rivera-Merced: a son, Miguel René Rivera-Stewwing, on Aug. 21, 2019. (See also *Class Notes*)



Become a Legacy

Westminster College has long been a tradition for many families. In more than 900 families, at least two generations have attended Westminster with as many as six generations attending. In honor of our beloved legacies, the **WESTMINSTER LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP** (currently worth up to \$18,500 per academic year) is available to students with a 3.0 cumulative high school GPA whose parent or grandparent earned a degree from Westminster. To learn more about how a Legacy Scholarship could benefit your family member, contact the Office of Admissions at **724-946-7100**.



Annual golf tradition held in memory of Westminster alumni

When a May 1985 helicopter crash claimed the young life of **Doug MacKay '83**, his Westminster Sigma Nu family was at a loss. MacKay—the co-captain of the Westminster swim team and an All-American in the 3-meter dive—was a beloved member of the fraternity. Wanting to celebrate and honor the memory of their friend and brother, a small group of Sigma Nu members took to the golf course.

What the brothers discovered on the links that day, that alongside the sadness, there was joy, said **Mike MacMurdo '82**. “Joy in remembering Doug. Joy in sharing stories of him. Joy in celebrating friendships that were so much a part of him and of them.” And in that moment, the Douglas R. MacKay Memorial Golf Open was born—an outing that lives on more than 30 years later.

Each fall, roughly 30 to 40 Westminster Sigma Nu alumni reunite for a day of golf and to remember not only MacKay, but other brothers from the same era who have passed on. It’s become an opportunity to renew friendships and share stories, and over the years, to raise funds to donate to the families of deceased Sigma Nu brothers or others in need.

“Over time, the ranks of those to remember unfortunately have swelled, but our commitment to those relationships made at Westminster College has not diminished,” said MacMurdo.

This year the brothers gathered in September at the New Castle Country Club to remember McKay, **Eric Saul '84, Dave Looker '80, Dr. William “Doc” McTaggart, Jim Sirkoch '83, Jeff Woolaway '82, Dale Maruster '83** and **Tommy King '82**.



The first golf outing consisted of Sigma Nu brothers, from left, Steve Vosel '83, Gary Grube '83, Dan Vosel, Mark Conway '83, Steve Dronsfield '83, Jim Curtis '83 and the late Jim Sirkoch '83.

NATIONAL CONNECTIONS & ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni events are open to all alumni and friends of Westminster College. The Office of Alumni Engagement works with volunteers to plan events in cities and regions across the country. *Get connected with alumni in your area!*



▲ **SENDING OFF THE SENIORS** — On May 9, **President Richardson** continued her tradition of inviting graduating seniors to her home during the last week of school. The get-together celebrates the seniors' transition into the alumni family, as well as provides the opportunity to present their senior class gift to the College.



▲ **PLAY BALL** — **Stephen Keener '80**, president and CEO of Little League International, helped organize an alumni event at the annual Little League World Series game in Williamsport. Alumni baseball fans attended a pregame event at the local Holiday Inn and heard remarks from Steve, as well as delighted in special seating during the game.



▲ **TITAN TIDBITS** — The Titan Tidbits events aim at providing a venue for alumni in a specific professional area to gather and enjoy quick tidbits and updates about Westminster over the lunch hour. Last spring, alumni working in the finance area were identified with assistance from alumni volunteer and BNY Mellon employee **Melissa Spencer '98**. Trustee **Lisa Peters** also helped coordinate the event. Alumni gathered at McCormick & Schmick's in downtown Pittsburgh on May 30 to enjoy lunch, a slideshow of recent Westminster enhancement projects and College news from Kara Montgomery, senior director of alumni engagement.



▲ **A DAY AT THE ZOO** — The Pittsburgh Zoo gathering continues to be one of the largest alumni events. This year's zoo day, held June 23, welcomed over 100 alumni and friends. Titans enjoyed all-day access to the Village Pavilion, Dip n' Dots ice cream, two animal encounters and special ticket pricing. Alumni of all ages reveled in the fun day to explore one of Pittsburgh's most favorite attractions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 8

Westminster College
Christmas Vespers

DECEMBER 14

Annual Kraynak's
Christmasland Event

DECEMBER 15

Pittsburgh Symphony
Orchestra Holiday Pops at
Heinz Hall

JANUARY 1, 2020

Rose Bowl Parade Alumni &
Friends Gathering

JANUARY 18, 2020

Winter Alumni Council
Meeting (*members only*)

JANUARY 21, 2020

Wear Westminster Day

JANUARY 23, 2020

Titan Talk: Agility, Resilience
and Self-Motivation

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Titan Talk: The Science
of Building a Brand &
Communicating



▲ **HAPPY HOURS** — Trustee **Ben Nelson '06** hosted two happy hours in Boston and New York City during the month of October, offering alumni the opportunity to gather and network. Nelson provided College updates and shared ways alumni can get involved in the #WCGivingTuesday campaign.



▲ **PAINT THE TOWN BLUE** — Student Alumni Association member **Faith Howell '21** helped prep New Wilmington for Westminster's homecoming by vibrantly painting storefront windows blue and white!



June 29

Titan Football Gathering

Titan football alumni gathered at Tuscany Square in New Castle to celebrate decades of Titan football, as well as the latest project: the Titan Football Locker Room. Attendees enjoyed seeing former and current teammates and coaches, including Coach **Scott Benzel** and former coaches **Joe Fusco, Dar Huey, and Gene Nicholson**.

July 13

Donor Thank You Food Tour

Alumni donors appreciated a tour of Lawrenceville—through food! As an acknowledgement of their dedication to their consistent gifts to the College, donors feasted on samplings from some of Pittsburgh's most unique and eclectic eateries.

July 22

New Wilmington Mission Conference Cookie Break

As has been tradition, the Office of Alumni Engagement hosted its annual reception for alumni attending the New Wilmington Mission Conference. Attendees gathered in the Old Main Tower Room to enjoy cookies and punch as a mid-day break. **President Richardson and Dean Jeffrey Coker** addressed the crowd with College updates.

August 7

Regional Pittsburgh Meeting

Members of the Pittsburgh Regional Alumni Committee gathered in the Waterfront area of Pittsburgh to hold their annual planning meeting. Those who were able to attend included **Melissa Spencer '98, Jim Giel '74, Mandi Giambroni '09, Jan Twaddle '74, Melissa Wiley '00, Andrew Anthony '11, Mike Disotell '11, Molly Harbst '98 and Chentis Pettigrew '69**. The committee worked to identify events for the upcoming year and shared ideas on promoting College recruitment.

MARCH 19, 2020

Titan Talk: Breaking Bad & the Science of Cancer

MARCH 27, 2020

Friday Dinners with Alumni

APRIL 3, 2020

Celebration of Philanthropy

APRIL 5, 2020

Florida Dinner Cruise

APRIL 16, 2020

We Say Thanks Day

APRIL 18, 2020

Spring Alumni Council Meeting (open to all alumni)

APRIL 23, 2020

National Networking Day

JULY 9, 2020

Treasures of Italy Tour

OCTOBER 2-4, 2020

2020 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

Go online for upcoming national & regional events!

www.westminster.edu/events

IN MEMORIAM | *Titans we will miss.*

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 Engagement.

- Adam Kepple Gehr '39** of Lancaster, Aug. 24, 2019.
Erma Paden Whittington '39 of Ellport, Aug. 23, 2019.
The Rev. Janet Miller '41 of Fargo, N.D., June 2, 2019.
Elizabeth Burnite Segina '42 of Shaler Township, Sept. 24, 2018.
Helen Scholl Kennedy '46 of Sewickley, formerly of Pleasant Hills, Nov. 16, 2018.
Meredith Laudenslager Rials '46 of Arlington, Texas, Nov. 23, 2018.
Ann Radulovic McGahey Smith '46 of Kansas City, June 22, 2016.
Park Glass Jr. '47 of Bethesda, Md., Feb. 23, 2019.
Carrie Robinson Kauffman '47 of Gettysburg, formerly of Grove City, April 15, 2016.
Kathryn Gehman Freed '48 of Warminster, formerly of Huntingdon Valley, Jan. 11, 2018.
Nancy Jean Parker Henderson '48 of Stoneboro, Aug. 12, 2018.
Edith Hindley Webber '48 of Clemmons, N.C., June 2, 2019.
Dr. John Cetin '49 of Angola, N.Y., March 20, 2019.
Mary Jane Booth Custer '49 of Spartanburg, S.C., Aug. 12, 2019.
Francis Knox Laughner '49 of North Beaver Township, Jan. 17, 2019.
Dr. Paul Rossi Sr. '49 of Cromwell, Conn., formerly of Boardman, Ohio, Dec. 20, 2017.
Nancy May Crawford '50 of New Wilmington, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, March 7, 2019.
John "Mick" McWilliams '50 of Rogers, Ark., Dec. 28, 2018.
Edwin Phillips '50 of Evansville, Ind., formerly of Hermitage, Jan. 22, 2017.
John Schuster '50 of Masury, Ohio, June 1, 2019.
Arthur Volmrich Jr. '50 of Lake Placid, N.Y., May 25, 2019.
Richard Coleman '51 of Kane, June 25, 2019.
Percy Hall '51 of Mansfield, Ohio, May 30, 2019.
Jane White Sturm '51 of Novi, Mich., Aug. 3, 2019.
Thomas Wilson '51 of Charlotte, N.C., July 23, 2019.
John "Jack" Kimpel '52 of Columbiana, Ohio, April 30, 2019.
Dr. G. Kenneth Gordon '53 of St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 26, 2019.
Jeanne Gresh Salzman '54 of Lake Bluff, Ill., Feb. 21, 2018.
Lida Rothey Brown '55 of Springfield, Va., Aug. 12, 2018.
Charles Garrett '55 of Port Clinton, Ohio, July 21, 2018.
Dr. Alfred "Al" Hart '55 of Bay Village, Ohio, Feb. 15, 2019.
John Hamilton Jr. '55 of Bryan, Ohio, Sept. 1, 2019.
Harry DeBolt '57 of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., Aug. 12, 2019.
Robert Detrick '57 of San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 21, 2018.
Alice Faull '57 of Rowlett, Texas, May 31, 2016.
Frank Greenslade '58 of Murrysville, Aug. 22, 2018.
Marian Shenberger Schamus Kesler '58 of Seaford, Del., June 13, 2016.
Linda Gillie Flohr '62 of Portland, Ore., March 19, 2019.
William Snider '63 of Seven Fields, formerly of Murraysville, Dec. 3, 2018.
Karen Braddock '64 of Bellevue, Wash., Jan. 25, 2019.
Douglas Post '64 of Plymouth, Mass., March 21, 2019.
Ina "Lee" Gamble Dillon '65 of Zelenople, formerly of Pittsburgh, Titusville and Oil City, June 17, 2019.
Theodore Young Jr. M'65 of Greenville, April 8, 2019.
Joseph Cambro Jr. '66 of New Castle, April 9, 2019.
Thomas Kubic M'66 of Austintown, Ohio, Aug. 2, 2017.
Judith Steinman Woodburn '67 of Annandale, Va., Sept. 14, 2019.
Jane Herchenroether Kirsch '69 of Chapel Hill, N.C., June 15, 2019.
Jeffrey Weeks '70 of Frederick, Md., April 16, 2016.
Dave Clapperton '72 of Marietta, Ga., Jan. 21, 2019.
Robert Powers M'72 of McCandless, Sept. 11, 2015.
Walter Halatek '73 of Palatine, Ill., Nov. 7, 2018.
William Tuscano '73 of East Palestine, Ohio, July 22, 2018.
Robert McWilliams M'75 of Clarion, Nov. 5, 2018.
Thomas Rice M'76 of Gibsonia, May 24, 2019.
Randall Romberger '76 of Greenville, S.C., Aug. 4, 2019.
Karen Klotz DeRiso '77 of Florham Park, N.J., Sept. 29, 2018.
Ellen Kawana Reed '77 of Sharon, May 17, 2019.
Karen Lipphardt Milewski '79 of Fairview, Feb. 1, 2019.
Edward Kempers M'80 of Boardman, Ohio, July 12, 2019.
Nicholette Koller '85 of Newbury, Ohio, May 21, 2015.
James Flinn '92 of Pleasant Hills, formerly of Brentwood, Dec. 20, 2018.
Joel Wentling M'95 of Greenville, Oct. 12, 2019.
Jason Levish '98 of Slippery Rock Township, June 16, 2019.
Sybil Feightner '06 of Berea, Ohio, May 31, 2019.

JARED C. JACOBSEN '71 | AUG. 27, 2019



Jared C. Jacobsen, longtime organist at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, died Aug. 27, 2019, as a result of a car crash in Ohio. Jared began his musical career at age 5 as a piano student at the institution and had returned every summer since. Since 1996, he had served as the organist and coordinator of worship and sacred music at the famed summer resort and learning center. He was the primary operator and guardian of the 112-year-old Massey Memorial Organ of four manuals and 5,640 pipes. He also shepherded the 50-voice Motet Choir for daily worship services and the 150-voice Chautauqua Choir for Sunday morning and evening worship. He played his final

Chautauqua service and concert—a service he curated and titled “Camp Meeting is Over”—on Aug. 25, just two days prior to his death. When not at Chautauqua during the summer months, Jared served as director of music for First Lutheran Church in San Diego, where he resided. He was also a member of the performing arts faculty of the Bishop School in La Jolla, Calif.

THE REV. DR. JOSEPH M. HOPKINS '40 | OCT. 24, 2019



The Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Hopkins '40, professor of religion *emeritus*, passed away Oct. 24, 2019, at the age of 100. A lover of learning, music and his Lord, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster College in 1940, a Bachelor of Theology degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1943, and his Master of Education degree (1948) and his Ph.D. (1954) from the University of Pittsburgh.

Using his devotion to ministry to bless others around the world, Joseph first served as a U.S. Navy chaplain, serving in the Philippines and aboard U.S.S. Tangier, a seaplane tender.

In 1946, he began teaching in the Bible department at Westminster, where he taught for nearly 40 years, retiring in 1985. He also served locally as a pastor at Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church, a supply pastor at Lebanon United Presbyterian Church, a pastor of visitation at Covenant Presbyterian Church, a parish associate at the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church and acted as an interim supply pastor at numerous area churches.

He was a missionary to Malawi, Africa, as well as to the Sudan and Haiti. The greatest joy of his life was his relationship with God, and there was nothing he loved more than sharing that love with everyone whom he encountered. In addition to God, Joseph also expressed a great love of music and literature. In his lifetime, he composed more than 100 musical pieces and three major musical productions. At age 98 he published his first children's book, *William's Nine Lives*.

Survivors include his wife, Lois; children **John Hopkins '73**, Kathy, **Ralph Hopkins '74**, Martin, Brooke and **Elaine Hopkins Taylor '86**; 19 grandchildren, including **Alexandra Taylor Schroder '14**; and 19 great-grandchildren.



Above: As a student, Hopkins—seated third from left—was active with the Young People's Christian Union (YPCU); below, Hopkins with daughter Elaine '86, left, and granddaughter Alexandra '14.

CAMPUS FAMILY

MARTHA WOLFORD | JULY 28, 2019

Martha Wolford was employed by Westminster College for 28 years. Her tenure began in the Office of Career Planning and Placement and concluded as executive secretary to the late **Bill Birkhead**, vice president for finance and management services.



DR. DAVID C. TWINING | SEPT. 23, 2019

Dr. David C. Twining, professor of history *emeritus*, passed away Sept. 23, 2019. A member of the faculty from 1990-2013, David earned his undergraduate from the College of Wooster, his master's from the University of Virginia and his Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. At Westminster, he was involved in the History Day Program from its inception and coordinated the First-Year program. He was a board member of the Pennsylvania Council for History Education and belonged to the New Wilmington Rotary Club. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Lora; and his three children: Rachel, Beverly and **Matthew Twining '00**.

MARY ANN HARMS '79 | NOV. 3, 2019

Mary Ann Wall Harms '79, wife of Professor of Biology *Emeritus* **Dr. Clarence Harms**, passed away Nov. 3, 2019. Mary Ann, who began her college studies at Tabor College in Kansas in the 1950s, returned to college in the 1970s. She graduated with honors from Westminster College in 1979. Her career included teaching elementary school, giving violin lessons, performing with the Westminster College Orchestra and the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and establishing her home-based business, Clay Creations by Mary Ann. She was active within her church and the New Wilmington community. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, as well as five children, Douglas, **Duane Harms '81**, **David Harms '84**, **Danette Harms-Robinson '87** and Debra; 15 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

WC MEMORIES

DR. DOROTHY J. POLLOCK '46 | AUG. 27, 2019

For almost a decade, this last page of *Westminster Magazine* has been a dedicated space to a section titled "WC Memories." Highlighting the structures that beautify the campus of Westminster College, "WC Memories" was a special project assigned to **Dorothy J. Pollock '46**, one of the College's greatest supporters and volunteers, by **Mark Meighen**,

Westminster's former senior director of marketing and communication services. Dorothy spent several weeks researching and compiling the histories of nearly every building on campus.

Since 2010, we've shared her writings in each issue. The project concluded last spring with her final segment on McKelvey Campus Center, and plans were under way to spotlight her in this issue. But this past August, Dorothy—at the age of 94—passed away. It seemed only fitting

to remember her here, on this page, to say a fond farewell to our dear friend.

If you ask around, nearly everyone at Westminster knew Dorothy—or knew of her. She volunteered her time in the alumni and institutional advancement offices, frequented many campus events and was a proud supporter of all things Titan. She served on Alumni Council and various volunteer committees over

the years. She spent two terms on the Board of Trustees and in 2004, she was awarded an honorary doctorate in public service and earned the affectionate nickname—coined by **Gloria Cagigas**, former vice president for institutional advancement—"Doc Dot." She enjoyed a good round of golf with **Camille Hawthorne**, former assistant dean of student affairs, always had a calendar booked with lunch dates and became a mentor and friend to many students over the years. In fact, the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha initiated Dorothy into the sorority in 2007, more than 60 years after her college graduation. Her laugh was genuine, with an ever-so-slight twinkle of mischievousness in her eye. She enjoyed amusing people just as much as she enjoyed being amused. Dorothy was kind, funny, generous, whip-smart and strong. But above all else, she was grounded in faith and lived her life with passion and purpose.

Born in McKeesport in 1925, Dorothy earned her undergraduate in chemistry from Westminster in 1946 and a master's from the University of Cincinnati. A pioneer in her field, Dorothy entered a profession during an era in which there were very few female scientists. Her career in polymer chemistry research was spent at Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Koppers Company and finally the Atlantic Richfield Co., where she was supervisor of the polymer characterization molecular structure division, retiring in 1981. Even in retirement she kept up with the emerging trends in her field and developed special relationships with members of Westminster's chemistry faculty, including **Dr. Helen Boylan '95**, **Dr. Peter Smith** and **Dr. Martha Joseph**.

Her loyalty to her alma mater was inspiring. For 70 years she freely offered her time to the College. But she was more than just a volunteer—she became an integral part of the institutional advancement and alumni staffs. After

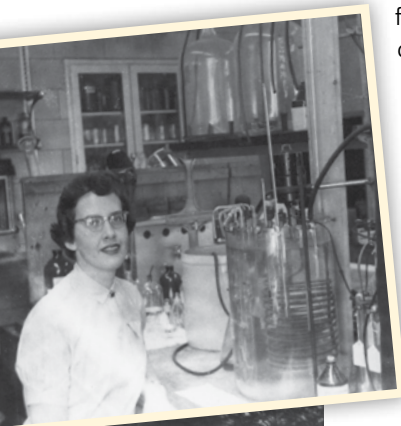


she retired, Dorothy spent several days a month working on campus. She took pride in each assigned task, whether she was researching alumni, penning donor appreciation letters or writing Class Notes for *Westminster Magazine*.

In addition to being a dedicated volunteer, Dorothy was exceptionally generous. She was a faithful donor to the annual fund and provided leadership gifts to every capital project—and she encouraged others to do the same.

She often said that, above all, her life has been richer for the relationships formed as a student and as a proud alumna. In her words, "It is the people who make Westminster College unique and special. There is a spirit that has always existed that anyone who spends any time on campus can easily recognize...I am grateful to be a part of this. I pray that our Board of Trustees will always direct the College with wisdom, good common sense, and with love for the mission of Westminster."

~ Elizabeth Fontaine Hildebrand '92





Announcing the DAR HUEY HERITAGE CENTER

We need your help to honor Titan legends such as Huey, Burry, Fusco, Ridl and Walker, and complete the Huey Heritage Center in Grover Washabaugh Lobby. The Dar Huey Heritage Center will capture the rich history of Titan athletics and honor one of our best Titans, **Dar Huey '74**.

The center will complement the design motifs of the new Chet and Hilda Claire Student Athlete Lounge, the renovated football locker room and the Ron Galbreath Court.



MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY AND HELP US MAKE THIS VISION A REALITY.

THOSE WISHING TO HONOR DAR BY MAKING A GIFT CAN DO SO AT A VARIETY OF GIVING LEVELS:

- \$42 to honor Dar's favorite number
- \$223 in honor Dar's total wins as a player and coach
- \$1,974 in honor of the year Dar graduated
- Or a gift amount of your choosing!

Make your gift today at www.westminster.edu/Huey.



DISPLAY CASES

A marquee feature of this new space will be specific display cases dedicated to each of the varsity sports.

Naming rights for display cases begin at **\$25,000** for those wishing to support the Dar Huey Heritage Center in a lasting manner. Pledge payments over time are an option.

Contact **Rob Klamut** at 724-946-7018 or klamutrg@westminster.edu or **Andrew Youtz** at 724-946-7009 or youtzaj@westminster.edu for information about naming opportunities.

AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

- Basketball W
- Cross Country M/W
- Lacrosse M/W
- Soccer M/W
- Swimming & Diving W
- Tennis W
- Track & Field M/W
- Conference Championship*
- National Championship*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GETTING ORIENTED

Orientation leaders Madison Brown, Jenna Toohey and Jill Caldwell are all smiles during move-in day. Sixty five student orientation leaders—as well as Residence Life staff, football players and other volunteers—greeted the 300+ new students to Westminster this year.