

FOCUS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WESTFIELD STATE FALL 2013

WESTFIELD
STATE

175

1838 ★ 2013

CELEBRATING 'THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE'

**Civic Engagement: Growing the Mission
Running Scared at the Boston Marathon
Faculty Embrace Community Giving**

FALL 2013

EDITOR

Janice Beetle '85
Beetle Press

DESIGN EDITOR

Janet Garcia '83, M. Ed '04
Director of Marketing

ART DIRECTOR

Todd M. LeMieux '89

PHOTOGRAPHER

David Fried
Enrollment Management

EDITORIAL BOARD

Kandyce Aust
Director of Special Gifts

Mickey Curtis
Athletics

Janet Garcia '83, M.Ed '04
Director of Marketing

Marsha Marotta
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Kathi Bradford, Director
Alumni Relations

CLASS NOTES

Kelly A. Galanis
Alumni Relations

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Kandyce Aust
Janice Beetle '85
Kathi Bradford
David Card '14
Kylie Coffey '13
Mickey Curtis

Dr. Evan S. Dobelle
Jamie Faulkner '13
Delia Fisher
Kelly Galanis
Peter Miller '84

Claudia Moore O'Brien M.Ed '00
Laura Phelon '11

ISSN 1520-7641

FROM THE EDITOR

Changing Lives, One Civic Engagement at a Time

By Janice Beetle '85

Dr. Robert A. Hayes knows full well how service learning can change your life. In 1985, the University psychology professor was 23 years old, working as a youth minister, leading his first service learning trip to an orphanage in a desert north of Port au Prince, Haiti.

He and a group of 20 students were there to assist with building an educational facility, and as they arrived, children flocked to their van.

“Two things struck me intensely,” Dr. Hayes says. “One, there were no adults. The older children were taking leadership roles in caring for those who were younger. Second, the sheer joy, more like jubilation, that absolutely exploded among the children when we produced a single soccer ball.

“I will be eternally grateful to that community of orphans every single day of my life,” he says.

Dr. Hayes is one of many faculty members and administrators on the Westfield State campus who understands the importance of service learning and who is working to develop it as a key component in the lives of each University student.

Westfield State has long held a focus and importance on learning by giving back to the community through volunteer projects and work. Students, faculty, staff and alumni have always given to their regional and global community in countless ways, through countless efforts.

But the terms used to describe service learning, and the definition of the work, has evolved over the years. When we speak of such learning opportunities now, we speak of “civic engagement.”

“The University understands that civic engagement is not just an added benefit to a students’ program of study, but a necessary piece of the learning experience for students,” Dr. Hayes says. “It provides the opportunity for transformation in how a student views his or her role in their community, in their country and on the globe.”

Under the guidance and direction of Dr. Marsha Marotta, dean of Undergraduate Studies, and

thanks to a \$148,000 state grant she was instrumental in securing for the University last fall, civic engagement is being developed and strengthened on the campus.

Read about these important advances and the benefits for the Westfield State community in the package of stories on Pages 8 and 9, and you will be inspired and excited.

In its essence, civic engagement allows crucial learning experiences for students. It offers them the opportunity to be instruments of change and transformation in their communities. It gives them the chance to make a difference.

Now, instead of simply filling a temporary need, students will have the chance to make a targeted, focused difference.

Dr. Hayes tells this story to illustrate the benefits of civic engagement for students:

“A group of students was recently working in a meals program in an impoverished area of one of our major cities. On the first day, students were somewhat apprehensive as they passed the long lines of individuals and families who were waiting for entrance to the meal site,” he says. “Serving as volunteers in the community, students provided trays of food, water, a smile, eye contact and often conversation. By the end of that first day, they were overwhelmed with the understanding that if we take away economic differences that contribute to very different life circumstances, we are the same, we are all one.

“Students learned that solutions for a community are often complex, requiring larger public awareness, programs of support and opportunity to those in need,” Dr. Hayes adds. “But they also learned that part of the solution is to break down the barriers that keep us separate from each other. They understand what privilege is, and understand they have the choice to be connected or not with humanity in a fuller sense of the word community.” ■



FALL 2013

Table of Contents

ON CAMPUS

3 - 7

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

8, 9

ALUMNI on the GO

10 - 15

FACULTY / STAFF

16 - 19

ATHLETICS

20 - 25

ALUMNI NEWS and NOTES

30 - 31

CLASS NOTES

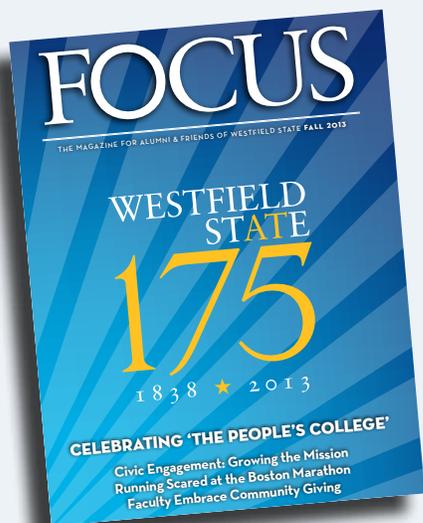
32 - 35

FOUNDATION

36, 37



*Thank you for W.S.
Westfield State Tea
1951 - 1955
for a wonderful &
a Dylon life was my
my graduation* **15**



ON OUR COVER

Westfield State was founded in 1838 by Horace Mann as "The People's College," the first public institution of higher learning in America without barrier to race, gender or economic class. In this issue, we celebrate our anniversary.

We'd love to hear from you!

Want to get involved?



Join our Alumni Fan page or group on Facebook and LinkedIn; follow us on Twitter @WestfieldState and @WestfieldAlumni; call (413) 572-5404, (413) 572-5228; or email kbradford@westfield.ma.edu or kgalanis@westfield.ma.edu.

Our URL has changed to westfield.ma.edu, and with it, all email addresses have changed to firstinitiallastname@westfield.ma.edu. For instance, the email address for John Doe would be johndoe@westfield.ma.edu.

Focus magazine is published for Westfield State University two times a year. The mission of the magazine is to highlight the work of the administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni at the University and to share with the wider community the stories of excellence on campus. Focus magazine welcomes story ideas and story submissions. Ideas and stories can be offered to editor Janice Beetle '85 at (413) 374-6239 or via email at beetlepress@charter.net. Stories must be of interest to the general readership and should be no longer than 600 words. Class Notes, highlighting alumni's personal or vocational views, are also welcome and can be sent to kgalanis@westfield.ma.edu. Deadline for the Spring 2014 issue is Nov. 1, 2013.



Celebrating ‘The People’s College’ and 175 Years of Quality Learning

A S WESTFIELD STATE celebrates its 175th anniversary, I think of how proud our founder Horace Mann would be of his creation today. Called the “Father of the American Public Education,” Mann accomplished much in his lifetime, but his prime legacy was to convince people that public education was a public good that should be publicly funded. He truly believed that education was the birth-right of every child, and he founded Westfield State in 1838 as “The People’s College,” the first public institution of higher learning in America without barrier to race, gender or economic class.

What growth and success our school has had, since our first class of eight men and eight women began their studies at the Normal School at Barre, the forerunner to Westfield State. Now, the university boasts an enrollment of over 6,400 undergraduate and graduate students doing coursework in 31 undergraduate academic majors, 8 graduate programs, 41 concentrations and 38 minors.

It is striking to note that while Mann would be proud, he might also be disappointed that higher education still needs to advocate for better resources, better compensated teachers and better school systems—better ways to balance needs with realities. Unlike the 19th century, today things change with warp speed. It’s a time when technology, culture and the global marketplace are taking us places quicker and faster than we ever thought possible.

It is a given that if we do not prepare or plan wisely we will be swallowed up in the quicksand of our progressive times. Here at Westfield State, we are meeting that challenge by becoming innovators and fostering relationships and collaborations with those who are willing to accept the challenges of change. Together with our government, community and business partners, we are

developing plans that are flexible enough for the dynamic face of higher education in the digital age.

As we plan for our future, we would do well to follow the lead of the late 19th century Jane Addams, who acknowledged the importance of relationship, education and the interconnection of all aspects of a person’s life.

In 1889, Addams rented a private mansion in a transitional neighborhood in Chicago and created Hull House, the most well-known and influential of America’s settlement houses.

Welcoming inner city poor with innovative programs that taught life skills, Hull House encouraged learning and provided a

the settlement house concept applies to the way we meet our goals. Reflecting Addams’ approach to the social problems of her day, Westfield State has chosen to look holistically as we plan strategically—assessing where we are, where we have been and where we need to be in relation to that unpredictable future. As we provide community forums for discussion of these plans, we are fostering a culture of inclusion that inspires trust and creativity. We are finding ways to make education more accessible to folks for whom higher education may have been out of reach. And honoring the legacy of Horace Mann, we have made engagement with our community a priority. It’s a process that is transforming our university.

Happy 175th anniversary, Westfield State!

May our future be illuminated by our past, inspired by our present and responsive to the needs of the future we can hardly imagine.

platform where advocates for social justice could meet, debate and mobilize. For many, who could not afford the costs of college, it took the place of formal higher education.

Addams believed in the creation of a culture that celebrated the human spirit and the dignity of each person, and her instincts were correct. By 1907, Hull House had expanded to a complex of 13 buildings covering nearly a city block with everything from a theater, art gallery, gymnasium and kindergarten to libraries, art studios, a music school and even housing. (Almost sounds like a university, doesn’t it?)

As Westfield State connects with its community, I cannot help but notice how

Jane Addams described Hull House “as a place for enthusiasms, a spot to which those who have a passion from the equalization of human joys and opportunities are early attracted.” Like that, Westfield State is a place for enthusiasms, where students, faculty and staff alike are given the opportunity to discover themselves in relation to each other, to their passions and to the ever-changing world beyond our campus borders.

Happy 175th anniversary, Westfield State! May our future be illuminated by our past, inspired by our present and responsive to the needs of the future we can hardly imagine. ■

One of 29 Who Shine

This hard-working father, police cadet and top student was honored by the governor before his graduation

By Jamie Faulkner '13

AS A YOUNG BOY, JAIME JAQUEZ '13 lived in a family that struggled to make ends meet.

“I know how it feels to never see your parents because they are always working to barely make enough to feed you,” Jaquez says.

He started trying to help his family at just 12 years old, working weekends at a supermarket where he learned the value of earning his own money. “Forty dollars then was like having a million now,” he says.

Jaquez worked throughout high school, but, like most teenagers, he gave little emphasis to academics and instead focused on fitting in and being “cool” in school.

All his priorities solidified, though, when his daughter Amber was born in November of his freshman year of college.

“That was a wake-up call for me,” Jaquez says. “I stopped worrying about my social status and started focusing on how I would provide the life I never had for my daughter.”

Knowing that education is the key to breaking out of poverty, Jaquez says he would “stop at nothing” to obtain it. “That pretty much sums up my entire motivation for doing well in school,” he says. “I always had the potential. I just needed to grow and mature to realize what was important in my life.”

His hard work and motivation paid off. Just a few weeks before Jaquez accepted his bachelor’s degree in May, the 20-year-old was honored by Gov. Deval Patrick as one of the 29 Who Shine.

In its third year, the 29 Who Shine program recognizes one student from each public insti-

tution of higher education in Massachusetts who embodies academic achievement, student leadership and community involvement.

After completing his bachelor of science in criminal justice in only five semesters with a grade point average of 3.98 while working full time as a cadet for the Springfield Police Department, Jaquez clearly did shine.

He is modest about the achievement.

While Jaquez attended college and worked

fulltime, his daughter was raised by her mother in New York, and Jaquez visited whenever he could. This is the reason why he put his education on speed dial. “I took six or seven classes every semester and two or three classes during each summer in order to finish my bachelor’s degree in two and a half years,” he says.

Jaquez finished his course work in December 2012 and married Yanill on Jan. 17. On May 17, he accepted his diploma at the graduation ceremony at the MassMutual center in Springfield.

Jaquez and his family live in Chicopee. He hopes to one day be a state trooper, and he is also considering getting a law degree. He plans to return to Westfield State this fall to begin work on a master’s degree in criminal justice. ■



Jaime Jaquez '13 and Governor Deval L. Patrick

From 20 Students to 4,600

Campus grows in student body, activities and buildings over Westfield State's first 175 years

By Laura Phelon '11

Karen Canary knows a thing or two when it comes to Westfield State's history. In addition to being an alum of the class of '95, Canary is a library assistant responsible for the archives that hold the keys to unlock the University's vibrant past and document its present endeavors.

"I would say that the biggest change on campus over the years is that the number of buildings has grown significantly," Canary says. "We have grown from a few rooms in the Barre Town Hall to a thriving campus with many dorms, lots of academic space, food service areas and parking lots."

When the Barre Normal school opened in 1839, classes were held in the town hall. From there, The Westfield Normal School opened in 1844 at the Westfield Academy on Broad Street in Westfield. The campus was moved to Western Avenue in 1956.



Karen Canary

Campus life

While extracurricular activities were limited in Westfield State's early years, students still found ways to let loose and have fun in between classes. They formed a variety of different clubs, including the Mandolin Club, for mandolin players, and the Debate and Glee clubs.

Students now have many options for spending their down time, in organizations with an academic focus, such as the English and Business clubs, for instance, to the hobby-based options, including Night Owls, an a capella singing group, and Dance Company to the more diverse Queer/Straight Alliance and Muslim Student Organization.

Canary says another change in campus life is the number of opportunities for student and faculty travel.

"The international programs that we offer are another big difference for students," Canary says. "It was rare that anyone traveled very far in the 1800s. Now our students travel out of the country and do things that our ancestors could only dream of."

The International Programs Office hosts the University's exchange and international students and manages National Student Exchange, International Student Exchange, Study Abroad and Short-Term Study

Abroad programs that offer students the opportunity to study in countries around the world for an academic year, a semester or for a two- to three-week faculty-led course.

Construction and renovations

The University has gone through major renovations and construction projects since it first came to Western Avenue. Recent renovations include the 39,000 square foot Tim and Jeanne's dining commons, which now accommodates 500 students; an expanded wellness center with new equipment and a group exercise room; and improvements to the library. University Hall, a new on-campus housing building, is set to open this fall.

"The new library is such a pleasant, comfortable space for students now," Canary says. "The lighting is much better, as well as the new, updated décor. There are more new computers for students as well as more printers. Additionally, there is more quiet space for study now. The instructional classroom is larger. There are six study rooms that students can use for group study. These are a new addition to the library and are very popular."

"The University archives now has environmental controls," Canary says. "This climate control system keeps the archives at a constant temperature and humidity level. The system provides a good environment for the archival materials for many years to come. This will mean access for the future generations."

Westfield State now

Westfield State has classrooms in seven buildings and a growing number of on- and off-campus housing. With just 20 students in its first class, the University now educates 4,600 undergraduate day students with a 17:1 faculty to student ratio.

What hasn't changed in 175 years? The fact that Westfield State features hard-working, dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to creating an enriching learning environment for current and future students.

"It's the people that make Westfield State a very special place to work," Canary says. "I have enjoyed the many people that I have had the pleasure to encounter here." ■

The Birth of a University



Westfield State began in 1838 as The State Normal School in Barre, Mass. with 20 students.



In 1844, the Westfield Academy Building was the home of the Westfield Normal School.



A building on the corner of Washington and School Street was donated to house the growing Normal School in 1845.



The building was enlarged in 1860 and 1869 to accommodate the growing number of students.



A new building was erected in 1892 on Court Street; it is currently the Westfield Municipal Building.



A training school for teachers was built on the site of the old college building at Washington and School Street.



In 1956, the current campus opened on Western Avenue with an enrollment of 358 students. There were only two buildings at the time, Parenzo Hall and Scanlon Hall.



The campus has grown to include 10 residence options, an athletic facility, administration building, dining commons, campus center, interfaith center, an elementary school, four academic buildings and a downtown residence hall and a current enrollment of over 4,600 day students.

Off to a Solid Start

First Year Forward program gives first-years a seamless transition to college life

By Laura Phelon '11

THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE holds a lot of weight for a student's future, and Westfield State is trying to ensure it offers a positive, well-rounded experience.

That's why Connections: First Year Forward, a collaborative program designed to create a seamless transition period for freshman from high school to college, was developed as a result of a Foundations of Excellence Study in the 2010-2011 academic year.

"While our in-depth study made it clear we are doing many things right, we felt it important to reflect upon and understand what we do well and consider thoughtfully what does not meet our standards of excellence," says Maureen McCartney, associate dean of Academic Affairs and chair of the

First Year Advisory Committee.

She says the study showed that students, faculty and staff all wanted more of a focus on the transition, academic connections, diversity discussions and professional development.

"Success during this transition sets the foundation for continued success as an undergraduate," McCartney adds.

The goals of First Year Forward are: promoting the understanding of the values and goals of a college education; enabling students to understand the policies, procedures and resources relevant to academic

success; enhancing the essential academic skills of first-year students; encouraging students to engage in higher levels of personal, social and civic responsibility; and encouraging a connection to the University community.

To develop a close relationship amongst students, First Year Forward has established a number of first-year-student-only activities, including First-Year Convocation, a ceremony welcoming students to Westfield State; a First-Year READ book that all students are required to read and an accompanying author visit; the "1-Book," a welcome packet for students and parents that explains the University and what to expect freshman year; and first-year only academic classes.

Each freshman is offered two first-year only courses.

Professor Susanne Chuku of the Economic and Management department teaches a first-year-only section of Principles of Economics and applied the first-year objectives to her Economics curriculum.

"Teaching a first-year-only course is an exciting opportunity to make a unique difference in the lives of my freshmen students," Chuku says. "It made me realize how important the role of an instructor is in shaping their future college years."

Feedback on First-Year-Only courses has been positive. According to Dr. Marsha Marotta, dean of Undergraduate Studies and an advisory board member, a group of first-year students



CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Commencement 2013

The University's undergraduate commencement was held at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield on May 17, with Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley serving as the guest speaker. In total, 1,400 students from 31 different majors received degrees.



Creating Community Partners

Civic engagement efforts on campus help students grow ‘habits of engagement’ to better their world

By Janice Beetle '85

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT these days, you are not just talking about the kind of community service in which a student goes off into the community to do good work.

You're talking about partnerships between students and the regional and global communities in which they learn. The scope of civic engagement has broadened; it now includes working with community organizations to identify their needs—and then help fill them.

So says Dr. Marsha Marotta, dean of Undergraduate Studies, who is working to make sure that Westfield State is keeping up with these important trends.

Dr. Marotta was instrumental in seeing that Westfield State secured a \$148,000 state grant from the Department of Higher Education (DHE) last fall (see sidebar on Page 9) that will make possible a rapid expansion of longstanding civic engagement efforts on campus.

She is also enmeshed in the work on the state level.

Since last fall, Dr. Marotta has served as part of a DHE study group on civic engagement made up of about a dozen faculty and administrators from the 29 public campuses across the state. The study group will make recommendations to the state Board of Higher Education in the fall for implementation of civic engagement practices statewide.

At Westfield State, Dr. Marotta says, “Our goal is to have every student take

at least one course that has a substantial pedagogy of civic learning and democratic engagement beginning with the class of 2016.”

The learning components of the grant are based around identifying and filling needs in the community. According to Dr. Marotta, one kind of course the University could develop using the state funds involves students working in partnership with area organizations to identify and solve problems.

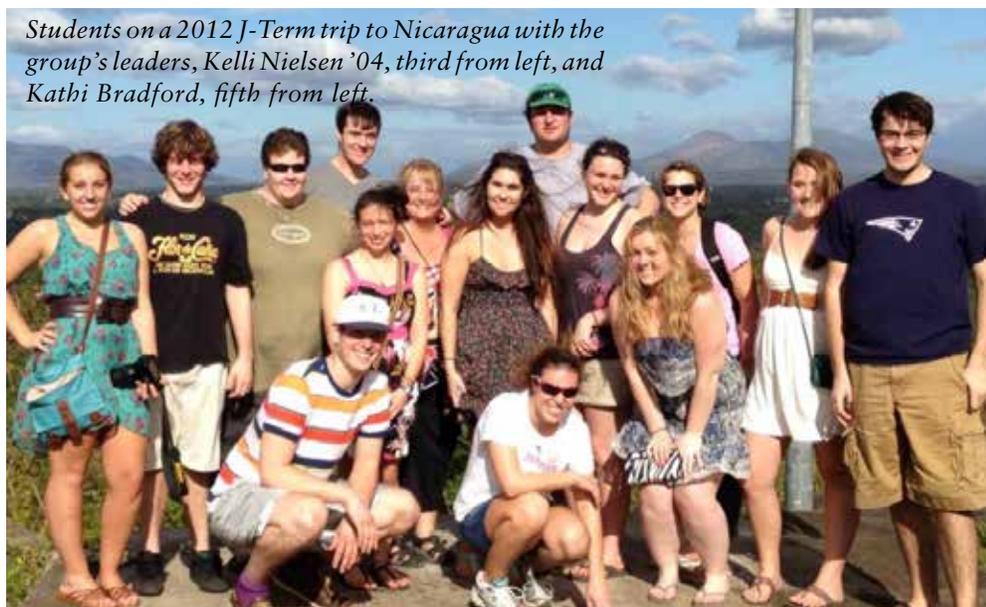
For instance, students could work with a

grammar school to identify safety hazards on the school playground or in the traffic flow for school buses; then, University students would tackle those problems with the elementary school students and navigate the political processes to create positive change. Both sets of students learn from this.

“We want students to get involved and stay involved in their communities,” Dr. Marotta says. “I hope they will understand the points of access in our system of government and how they can create change. We want to give students the tools to make a positive, tangible difference now and help them develop lifelong habits of democratic engagement.”

Dr. Marotta says some students have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Students on a 2012 J-Term trip to Nicaragua with the group's leaders, Kelli Nielsen '04, third from left, and Kathi Bradford, fifth from left.



Westfield State students got experience teaching in a Nicaraguan classroom in 2013.

Transformation Abroad

Civic engagement in Nicaragua helps students clarify career paths, develop their interest in giving

By Kylie Coffey '13

One afternoon in Granada, Nicaragua, a group of 13 Westfield State students took the local village children to the zoo. Before the outing, they packed a lunch for each child.

What happened next was life-changing.

“The children took their lunches, ate half of the sandwich and wrapped up the remaining half to feed the rest of their families,” says Kathi Bradford, director of Alumni Relations and one of the Global Service Class instructors for the trip last January. “It was an eye-opening and humbling experience for our students to realize how good they have it. That is a truly remarkable gift.”

This is the third year that Westfield State students have traveled to Nicaragua to work alongside La Esperanza Granada, a nonprofit organization that focuses on supporting children’s education and rebuilding the neighborhoods around the city of Granada.

In January 2012, students helped build a technology classroom. This year, they built a community center that will serve as a child care center so that the youngsters have a safe place to be during the day. This kind of center is needed because, according to Bradford, children are often left alone while their parents go off to work or to find work.

“It is not uncommon for a 6-year-old to be left to take care of a 2-year-old,” says Bradford.

Bradford says that building the child care center was vital to the community because it will introduce children to the concept of education.

Westfield State students worked in the Central American country from Jan. 2 to Jan. 16. Leading the trip with Bradford was co-instructor Kelli Nielsen, who is a leader in this year’s Alumni Year of Service initiative.

In those two weeks, students completed various volunteer projects, and in addition to building the community center, they taught fourth

Developing Civic Engagement

Westfield State University has received a \$148,000 grant for civic engagement initiatives from the Department of Higher Education. The grant makes funds available to:

- **Support a faculty director.** Dr. Susan Leggett, chair of the Communication department, has been named director for civic engagement activities.
- **Develop core and major courses dedicated to service learning, public service and leadership development.** For example, one course being proposed is called Civic Engagement and Mathematics, to focus on examining the kinds of obstacles students from multiple backgrounds face that keep them from fully reaching their potential in math. “Our goal would be to have every student participate in some manner in civic engagement,” Leggett said.
- **Support student learning in service learning travel courses.** The grant will support the service-learning travel courses that take place every “J” term, in January or June. Students travel to locations around the world to engage in such activities as rebuilding communities, building schools, working in orphanages and serving the homeless. The grant will help subsidize these courses to make them more affordable for students.
- **Promote career development.** “It’s important to help students understand how the skills and competencies they are developing through civic engagement are also skills and competencies that will help them contribute to their work and communities in productive ways,” Leggett said.
- **Participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement.** “We are gathering data on student volunteer experiences,” Leggett said. “We’re trying to find out and measure what people are doing in the areas of student volunteering on campus, where they’re engaging.” Leggett credits Lisa Plantefaber, associate dean of Institutional Research and Assessment at Westfield State, with an “amazing undertaking” in recruiting and motivating students to take part in the survey so that data could be gathered.

— Janice Beetle '85

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Shaping Lives for 175 Years

Westfield State University has educated thousands of alumni in the past 175 years. At one time, the College graduated only teachers but now the University prepares students for hundreds of different careers.

This series of stories on these pages takes a look at the work our alumni do in the community and gives credit to the transformative effect that the University had on their lives.

Each tells a story of a personal experience while at Westfield State that motivated them to do meaningful work in the world.



By Claudia Moore O'Brien M.Ed.'00

From MTG to Consulting

Peg Drisko-Johnson '88 spent the early years of her professional life in higher education positions, but found her true calling as director of volunteer services at the Pine Street Inn of Boston.

That role inspired her to launch a business that allows her to help others.

Established in 1969, the inn serves more than 1,600 homeless individuals daily and clocks over 60,000 hours of volunteer service per year.

"I feel like I grew up there," Drisko-Johnson said of the "10 amazing years" she had there.

After the birth of her second child, Drisko-Johnson decided to "retire into private life." However, Pine Street Inn still needed her.

Asked by her former boss to run the women's theater program and some other development projects, Drisko-Johnson obliged by founding her own consulting firm that provides consulting services to small to medium-sized nonprofits.

"I have planned events, provided temporary leadership in development and provided donor management when there are mergers," she says, explaining some of her services.

Drisko-Johnson graduated in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in English. She earned a master's in education and in educational policy, research and administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1990.



Peg Drisko-Johnson '88

As a freshman, Drisko-Johnson and a friend were cast in the chorus of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. From that time on, "I was enthralled and devoted to MTG," she says.

"I met my closest lifelong friends in MTG, and the advisor, Ken Manzer, was a love. After Ken's passing, Kathi Bradford became our advisor, and we are friends to this day," she says.

Now the president of the MTG alumni club, Drisko-Johnson says, "My devotion to MTG is because it is a club that embraces everybody. You can be an athlete, a scholar, someone with no theater training, and you are welcomed. I think of it as Westfield State's 'community theater.' Just because you don't excel, you can still participate in an activity you enjoy," she says.

"Westfield State provided me with such great support that I am now in a Ph.D. program and also an adjunct faculty member at Framingham State," says Drisko-Johnson. "I graduated 25 years ago with the confidence and drive to grow professionally while always maintaining a strong connection with Westfield State through the Musical Theatre Guild. It is a relationship that will last forever." ■

Habitat and History

Graduates of Westfield State usually have a unique and personal memory of their undergraduate days. For Antwain Hunter '07 it was his Habitat for Humanity build in Lynchburg, Va.

Hunter, who usually worked through spring break, heard about this opportunity from Kathi Bradford, then serving as the associate director of Residential Life and coordinator of New Student and Parent Orientation.

"I was immediately interested in getting involved. It was a good

way to use my time during spring break, doing something good for someone,” says Hunter, whose twin brother is Armand Hunter '12.

Hunter joined in the fundraising to get the students to Virginia and arrived there to find nothing more than a large platform. “We learned how to use tools to re-enforce the foundation, put up supports and even walls,” says Hunter. The 12 to 15

University students on the build camped out in the basement of a little church that also served them food. The Westfield State team worked for the entire spring break and, “By the time we left, it really looked like a house,” says Hunter. “We even got to meet the people who were going to live in it.”

Originally from Leominster, Hunter earned a bachelor's of history with a minor in multicultural and ethnic studies in 2007 and has continued on an academic path. After Westfield State, he immediately began studies at the University of Connecticut and earned a master's degree in history in 2009.

He then moved to Pennsylvania to attend Pennsylvania State University and is currently a doctoral candidate in history.

Hunter recalls the incredibly supportive and encouraging faculty and staff at Westfield State that inspired him. “I can still remember discussions that started in the classroom but continued in the hallways well after class ended,” he says.

“I remember the incredibly supportive community of faculty and staff,” he adds, giving specific credit for his success to staff members Carlton Pickron and Joan Fuller; Michael Anciello, a History professor; and Nitza Hidalgo, a professor in Education.

Hunter is aspiring to be a history professor himself as he works on his Ph.D. “I am working on my dissertation that examines free and enslaved black peoples' firearm use in Antebellum, North Carolina,” he says, noting he expects to defend it in the upcoming year.

“I am hoping I can teach at a small liberal arts college – someplace just like Westfield State,” he says. When asked if he has any preferences, Hunter says, “Actually, my dream would be to teach at Westfield State University.” ■



Antwain Hunter '07

Back and Forth, from War to Westfield State

Armand Hunter '12 defended freedom and protected dreams in the U.S. Army National Guard while simultaneously earning a bachelor's degree.

His is a story of perseverance and mastering transitions.

In March of his senior year, Hunter signed up with the Guard. “I knew I wanted to go to college, so it made sense to serve my country while also financing my college education,” says Hunter, who came to Westfield State through the Urban Education summer bridge program.

“I loved Westfield State from the moment I arrived on campus,” says Hunter, whose twin brother is Antwain Hunter '07. “I did one semester at Westfield State, and then was called to basic training and deployed to Iraq in 2004.”

Hunter returned to the University in 2005, went back to Iraq in 2006; returned to school in 2007, then was deployed to Afghanistan in 2009; and, upon his last return, completed his degree—with honors—in 2012.

Hunter's experience was unique and also very challenging as he continually moved from battlefield to classroom. “The transitions were difficult. I had to adjust from being suspicious and alert in the field to being secure and relaxed in a classroom,” he says.

But these transitions didn't keep Hunter from participating outside of the classroom. He was active on the Campus Activities Board and the Global Women's History project, but he did have to play “catch-up” each time he returned.

“Especially at first, because life moves on while you're gone,” he says. “I had to get re-oriented... and the students kept getting younger!”

Hunter also got to be part of Westfield State's growth: new academics, new buildings, new sports. “There was always something new,” he says, “The new nursing program, downtown buildings and more diverse students.”

Deciding to make a career with the Guard, Hunter is currently in Springfield working as a battalion medical readiness non-commissioned officer. He is responsible for processing the medical status of injured soldiers to the brigade. He is also still on active duty status.

Hunter says, “Regardless of how many times I left and came back to Westfield State, I always felt like I was coming back home. I think that is because it's so small. We have a sense of community.” ■



Armand Hunter '12

Running Scared

By Peter Miller '84

JULIE ARRISON '01 AND ERICA MELLONE '02 experienced the crisis that was the Boston Marathon this year. Both Mellone and Arrison were running for charities that are dear to their hearts—Mellone for the Alzheimer's Association, as her late grandfather had the disease for many years, and Arrison for the Franklin Park Coalition.

They say when the blasts occurred, confusion reigned.

"I was getting to the top of Heartbreak Hill when we heard about it on the course as 'an explosion,' and we were told the course was closing down," says Mellone.

Closer to the finish in Brookline, Arrison noticed many police vehicles whizzing past but assumed they were attending to a medical issue.

"Around Washington Square in Brookline, a woman running in front of me stopped abruptly and was crying into her phone about bombs. She mentioned the bombing locations and a man running behind me crumpled to the ground in hysterics because his family was going to be at one of those locations," says Arrison, "I turned off my GPS watch at 23.06 miles and sat in the middle of Beacon Street hugging this crying stranger. I got about 90 frantic text messages in a short time span and knew that this was serious."

The initial confusion was replaced by spectators, volunteers and even runners helping one another in any fashion possible.

"We were kept first at medical tents and then at churches and municipal buildings until the course was safe to be open and for the runners to return to downtown," recalls Mellone. "It was freezing and one runner made ponchos out of trash bags for all of the shivering people."

With cell phone service unavailable, both girls struggled to contact friends and family to pass on the message that they were safe.

As Arrison and her friend made their way back into the city, wrapped in their trash bags to stay warm, the phone service was restored, but still, they were not able to reach Arrison's friend's husband and son, who were assumed to be at the finish line.

When they reached the finish line, it wasn't the scene they had expected.

"We walked among SWAT teams and soldiers with machine guns. Our finish line experience was literally a war zone," says Arrison.

The two eventually learned that Arrison's friend's husband had lost a leg while running from the first explosion and into the second and was at Boston Medical Center. Her son



Julie Arrison '01, left

Language Opens Doors for This Alum

Four visits to Middle East are preparation for a career as a historian

By Jamie Faulkner '13

Michael Brill '12 left in August to spend a year in Jordan at the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman. This will be his second time studying there and his fourth trip to the Middle East.

A history and political science major, Brill has a mission to become a historian with a focus on the Middle East, and this passion began while at the University.

After a semester-long class in Arabic, Brill travelled to Jordan for a two week J-term course in 2010. He continued his studies and returned to the Middle East the next two summers, first to Oman, then again to Jordan, studying Arabic in both countries.

Brill visited Westfield State in March to discuss his experiences in the Middle East with students and faculty. He presented as part of the Muslim Journeys grant, which brought a collection of books and movies that the Ely library recently received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. (See sidebar.) His message to students was that language is one of the most important studies in college and opens many opportunities for the future.

Brill showed photographs from his time in Jordan and Oman and talked about what he saw in terms of everyday experiences, and he explained how the two Middle Eastern countries differ from one another, and from the U.S.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Muslim Journeys Collection

The Ely Library was one of almost 1,000 libraries and state humanities councils across the United States to receive the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys, a collection of books, films and other resources from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

The intent of the collection is to familiarize the American public with Islam and the cultural heritage of Islamic civilizations around the world. There are almost 30 books, all either originally written in or translated to English. Genres include history, fiction, memoir and more.

Brill's favorites are:

- *In the Country of Men*, a novel about Libya written by Hisham Matar.
- *House of Stone*, a memoir by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anthony Shadid about his family in the Middle East.

Films include:

- "Prince Among Slaves"
- "Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World"
- "Koran by Heart"

Other resources available are a one-year subscription to Oxford Islamic Studies Online and Islamic Art Spots and seven illustrated video essays that provide an introduction to Islamic art and architecture in a way that relates to the project themes and readings, referencing additional primary source texts.

The bookshelf is intended to address both the need and the desire of the American public for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage associated with Islamic civilizations.

— Jamie Faulkner '13



Building Father-Daughter Bond is This Entrepreneur's Mission

By David Card '14

“B **EING THERE.”** That’s the message that Bill Scatolini ’96 and three other fathers developed when they created FourFathers, a group that focuses on strengthening the bonds between fathers and daughters.



“Fathering starts from day one. You can’t jump in at the teenage level,” says Scatolini, who rides bikes, hikes, swims and “hangs out” with his three daughters—Mia, 9; Jenna, 7; and Ava, 4—on a consistent basis.

Scatolini stresses that having open links of communication with his daughters allows him to know what is going on in their lives and, ultimately, will make them stronger young women.

The FourFathers message focuses on fathers giving time, sincere attention and

unconditional love to their daughters to ensure they grow up with a strong connection to their fathers and, in turn, to their entire family.

Scatolini first got the idea for a company with such a mission through his own experiences as a father, wanting to raise daughters who were confident and proud of their identity.

The seed of the idea, though, traces back to Westfield State.

Scatolini earned an education certificate at the University in 1996, and he recalls that

his professors always stressed there was a proper way to address female students.

“You were not to address girls and guys as ‘guys’ in the classes,” Scatolini recalls. Instead, terms such as “boys and girls” or “ladies and gentlemen” were used to acknowledge the two different genders.

The emphasis caught Scatolini’s attention, and he’s kept it in the back of his mind. Now, it is at the forefront of his FourFathers work, and Scatolini is grateful to have been taught the distinction.

“Education was a big part of the base that brought out this idea,” he says. “I don’t think all fathers understand the importance of being connected to their daughters.”

The president of Scatolini Insurance in Wilbraham, having taken over the business from his father, Scatolini is married to Tracy (Auslander) Scatolini ’96, who earned a master’s degree in psychology at the University.

He says fathers who fail to connect on an emotional level with their daughters risk raising children with lower self-esteem and a weaker sense of identity.

He says being engaged with what a child is saying or doing lets them know that you respect them and value them, giving them a base for building their self-esteem and living a happier, better life.

Based on Scatolini’s own readings and knowledge on the subject, he says most girls’ self-esteem peaks at age 9 before plummeting when they hit double-digits. Scatolini hopes that fewer young women will feel that downward plunge if the FourFathers’ message gets out in a way that is widespread.

FourFathers has gained a great deal of success through support from the commu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Talking About Joe

Family creates scholarship to memorialize their son

By Laura Phelon '11

JOE KARETA '10 WAS the kind of guy people turned to when they needed help, and that's why he wanted to be a police officer.

But Kareta never got to join a force. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Westfield State in 2010, and only three months later, he was struck by a drunken driver while walking to the mailbox at his aunt's house in South Hadley, and he died from his injuries.

"The greatest joy I have left anymore is talking about Joe," his father, Fred Kareta of Westfield, says. "I can't talk to him, and I can't talk with him, so I talk about him. It's kind of like therapy."

To honor their late son, Fred and Kathy Kareta have created a scholarship in his memory.

In collaboration with the Westfield State Foundation, Inc., the Kareta family has created the Joe Kareta Scholarship. Any high school senior or present Westfield State student from Hampden or Hampshire county who is studying criminal justice and demonstrates a financial need, a track record of volunteerism in their community and has a

grade point average of 3.0 or higher, will be eligible to apply for the funds.

Since the accident, Fred Kareta says his family has been raising money and holding fundraisers in Joe's name.

Through events such as the Leprechaun Plunge, in which fundraisers jump in the Connecticut River in March to raise pledge money; benefit dinners at the Summit View in Holyoke and through private donations, the Karetas have raised over \$70,000. Their goal is to raise \$100,000.

Kandyce Aust, the acting director of the Westfield State Foundation, says the University was pleased with the family's gift.

"Joe Kareta was a talented and remarkable young man who continually gave to

others," she says. "The Kareta Scholarship enables the family and the Westfield State community to remember and honor Joe and celebrate his legacy. It is an honor to help steward this scholarship fund in his name."

The 2013 scholarship recipients were

Angelo Burgos '15, Christopher Snyder '17 and Bryan Cedrone '16.

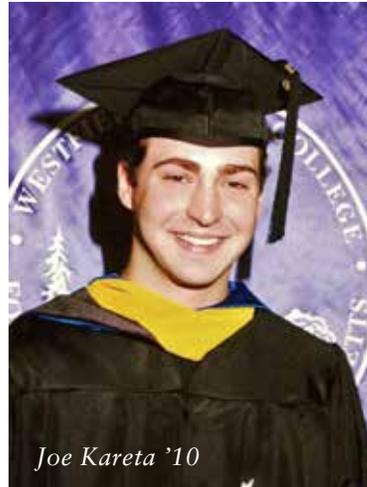
Fred Kareta says he hopes the scholarship will help others launch, or finish, their degree programs.

Setting up a memorial scholarship is just one of the many ways that families like Joe's give to the University.

The Westfield State Foundation offers a

number of ways to donate, including cash donations, planned gifts, deferred gifts and combination gifts, as well as retirement and life insurance gifts.

"Long after we're gone, Joe's scholarship will still be awarded," Kareta says. "Joe will stay with us and live on through his name and his scholarships." ■



Joe Kareta '10

Thank You to Westfield State Teachers College 1951 - 1955

Thank you for W.S. Teachers College 1951-1955 for a wonderful Education. My graduation and a successful career.

The University recently received the following letter from Faith Watson '55 of Long Beach, Calif., which appears verbatim:

Thank you for a wonderful education, and dorm life was fun, too.

My graduation led me to a successful career, teaching wherever I went. I taught with the U.S. Air Force in Japan and England, which led to touring Asia, Europe and Africa; even taking a ride on a camel in Cairo, Egypt.

Returning to the U.S.A., I lived in San Francisco, teaching in the Haight-Ashbury, home of the "Hippies" at that time.

My husband came into my life, and I began a new one. ■

Diversity is Key

By Laura Phelon '11

Westfield State has transformed in 175 years from a teaching college to a diverse university with 31 majors

A S WESTFIELD STATE ARRIVES at its 175th anniversary, four professors discuss what's different, what's remained the same and what they value about the University.

Beth Ann Rothermel, English

A 17-year veteran of Westfield State, Beth Ann Rothermel, professor of English, says one of the biggest changes on campus is the diverse faculty.

"There were not a lot of women my age on the faculty across campus when I started in 1996, but that has changed considerably," Rothermel says.

What has remained consistent is the connection between students and professors.

"I am glad that even as enrollments increase, we continue to have small classes and chances to work one-on-one with students through independent studies, student teaching, graduate capstones and honors projects," Rothermel says. "I am still able to get to know students in a way that was hard to do at the big university (University of Texas at Austin), where I did my graduate work and started my college teaching career."

Rothermel also reports that student life is more vivacious now, with over 70 clubs and 1,500 activities to choose from.

"I feel as if the campus is much more visibly lively than when I arrived," she says. "I love seeing students outside reading or talking in the Adirondack chairs."

In addition to her teaching at Westfield State, Rothermel has a passion for the history of women's education, and Westfield State's archives have allowed her to pursue that passion. She has written and published four articles on

the academic and extracurricular experiences of women attending the University in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

"I have been excited to see my work on Westfield State cited by other scholars in my field doing research on women's and teacher education," Rothermel says. "My work in the archives makes me feel an even stronger connection to the institution, and I try to find ways to share this history with my students."

Gerald Tetrault, Philosophy

Coming from the urban environment of Boston University was initially a culture shock for professor of philosophy Gerald Tetrault, but for the past 47 years, he has enjoyed and adapted to the quaint, rural environment.

"When I came aboard in 1967, Westfield State was but a few red brick buildings nestled in a bucolic setting of high pines," Tetrault says. "Yet, I soon warmed to the intimacy of the place, especially to my colleagues in Philosophy, from whom I learned so much. Teaching in a small college grew on me and seemed the ideal setting for a contemplative life."

Still the smallest department at the University, Tetrault says that he and his fellow philosophy professors have expanded their relationships to other departments on campus.

"We enjoy productive relations with professional as well as arts and sciences departments,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Sankofa promotes unity and diversity



Bob Plasse

Outside the Classrooms

Faculty and staff get involved in projects that enhance community life

By David Card '14

Bob Plasse is excited. As current assistant to the president at Westfield State and president of the local Westfield on Weekends nonprofit organization, he is quietly making a difference.

Plasse works to create “a University town” feel in Westfield, improving the overall well-being of the city on the way. Like Plasse, many University faculty and staff are also pitching in in the community.

Here are just a few of their stories:

Robert Plasse, Assistant to the President

Westfield on Weekends, or “WOW” as it has become affectionately known, came into existence in late 2003 when a number of community volunteers were working to organize a local arts festival. Among them was now-president of WOW, Robert Plasse, the assistant to President Evan S. Dobelle. Now in its 10th year, the nonprofit organization’s budget has grown, and the organization is “stronger than ever,” says Plasse.

WOW works with a number of the other local organizations to comprise a calendar

of all local events, insisting the cause is more about working together and improving as a community than the expansion of the group itself.

“We’re working to make Westfield a destination,” says an enthusiastic Plasse, who helps to organize the group’s events, in addition to writing grants so that they may gain funding from the community.

Plasse looks forward to Harvest Days this fall, which include the annual Colonial Harvest Day and the Haunted Harvest pub and restaurant tour, in which participants are encouraged to dress in Halloween costumes and tour the local pubs.

This year’s tour will take place on Oct. 26 from 7-11 p.m. with a Haunted Hollywood theme. WOW encourages all to attend, from local residents to University students and alumni.

In his work dealing in internal communications at the University, Plasse has seen the involvement of faculty and staff in the community firsthand. In recent years, students have contributed to the downtown art

gallery and have also assisted in the making of the weekly WOW local television show on channel 15, which Plasse hosts.

“A city is only as good as what the citizens bring to it,” says Plasse, who also speaks in the community about the importance of community programming and volunteerism.

He tells people that being a volunteer in the community can give a person the power to make a difference. And as Plasse will tell you, making a difference is “what it’s all about.”

Marijoan “MJ” Bull, Geography and Regional Planning

Marijoan “MJ” Bull joined the Friends of the Columbia Greenway in 2010. Since then, she has increased her level of involvement in the group and was recently named the organization’s director of planning, development and maintenance; she was also instrumental in gaining the group’s nonprof-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Always an English Teacher

Retired professor supports English education students with targeted bequest

By Delia Fisher, Retired Professor and Coordinator of English Education, Westfield State University

Once an English teacher, always an English teacher. Sometimes this seems a curse when I cannot avoid noticing a missing apostrophe or comma. But sometimes, it's a delightful blessing, as when a precocious grandson asks me to read his essay and seeks advice on whether he should submit it for a school contest.

The delight is doubled when I experience his wordsmithy and creative mind at work. As we chat, he tells me how much he likes his sixth-grade English teacher, then adds, "I think English teachers are great, Gramma."

So being a teacher, even a retired one, has its perks.

Friends ask me if I miss my job since my retirement from Westfield State three years ago. I respond that I miss watching my English education students move from being students to becoming student teachers to emerging as skilled teachers.

I miss the environment of commitment and enthusiasm of students as they travel paths that lead to classrooms.

An important symbol of this journey is the opportunity for some of our University English education students to attend the annual National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Convention.

When I accompanied students to Philadelphia for the convention a few years ago, we shared the excitement of learning from creative and innovative educators, an experience students felt was a unique opportunity for professional growth.

Last year, Dr. Sophia Sarigianides, the present English Education Coordinator at Westfield State, accompanied students to the convention.

Afterwards, one said, "It was an honor



Delia Fisher

to attend the NCTE Convention in Las Vegas. I learned a lot from the experience and will continue to attend conferences in the future because presenters provide tangible strategies while inquiring about and complicating education as we know it. It allowed me to realize that being a teacher is meant to be an ongoing learning process."

Another offered this: "The Convention is a fantastic way to continue adding on to the theory and practice you have been mentally collecting at Westfield State...I have no doubt that going to the NCTE Convention had a huge impact in getting my mind... ready for practicum..."

These students and others were able to grow from NCTE conventions because of the NCTE Travel Award, initiated by the English Education Program in 2005 and supported by the Westfield State Foundation Inc. (See related stories on Pages 36 and 37.)

I find it deeply gratifying to know that

our students will continue to develop as educators through this opportunity, one that would be unaffordable except for the NCTE Travel Award.

When I learned that I could target a bequest in my will for the specific purpose of helping to sustain this award, the decision to do so was easy. Now I know that my own commitment to education can endure.

It's my hope that others might see this as one way to "pay it forward" into the classrooms and children of tomorrow, many of whom will be ably served by Westfield State English teachers.

So, although I may wish to turn away from the compulsion to add or erase an apostrophe on that flyer, I think that being "always an English teacher" has its benefits.

I have a seat at a table with those who look at a child and see possibility, creativity and hope.

May I pull out a chair for you? ■

Virtual Excellence

University lauded by *U.S. News and World Report* for its online degree program

By Claudia Moore-O'Brien, M.Ed '00

AS NATIONAL ONLINE PROGRAMS have grown, so has the University's fully accredited Online Degree Completion Program, administered through the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education (DGCE) department.

As a matter of fact, Westfield State has been ranked as one of four Honor Roll schools named to *U.S. News & World Report's* first-ever edition of Top Online Education Program rankings. Its online bachelor's degree completion programs were ranked in three different categories: faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, and teaching practices and student engagement.

President Evan S. Dobbelle says, "To be ranked as only one of four institutions in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* on its Honor Roll, along with the University of Florida, Pace University in New York and Florida Institute of Technology, is extraordinary. To be placed as Number One for Faculty and Training throughout the country is an enormous compliment to our professors and our professional staff."

Westfield State's unique "Web Camp" can be credited with preparing professors and staff to maximize online teaching skills. Sponsored through the Center for Instructional Technology, the camp prepares faculty for online teaching by providing a step-by-step program that teaches them how to adapt their face-based courses for an online presentation.

The camp covers topics such as best practices from University faculty who are teaching online; and course design and management, and understanding and using

assessment tools – along with many other useful resources to create engaging high-quality online learning environments for our students.

The Center for Instructional Technology is also a support resource for students. The success of Westfield State's online degree programs is reflected in its steadily growing retention rates: in 2010, that rate was at 80 percent and, in 2012, it increased to 88 percent.

Students begin with Westfield State and

finish with Westfield State.

Recently, there has been much attention paid in the media to the fact that students with a bachelor's degree can earn substantially more over their lifetime than those with only a high school diploma.

This is particularly true when the economy is depressed and the media reports that unemployment rates for workers without a college education are almost twice that of college graduates.

It is not surprising that students pursuing a bachelor's degree online are usually motivated by careers — either advancing in their current field or changing careers altogether. Westfield State offers online degree completion programs in business, sociology, history, criminal justice, liberal studies and psychology and minors in art, management,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Meaghan Arena

From Games and Folk Dance to Championships

175 years in Westfield State athletics

By Mickey Curtis, Sports Information Director

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS HAVE BEEN a “front porch” of the University for the past 65 years, providing Westfield State with a steady flow of local, regional and national recognition. The Owls’ teams and student athletes have been honored for their successes on and off the playing fields, with highlights including three NCAA Final Four teams, four first-team All-Americans and 18 conference scholar athletes of the year.

Sports participation was also an integral part of the Westfield State experience during the years when it was a small school consisting of an all-female student body. During the 1916-17 academic year, for example, 38 weeks of physical training was part of the curriculum, including gymnastics, games and folk dancing.

The following is a brief timeline of the history of Westfield State athletics, with a special thanks to the tireless research efforts of Bob Farr ’55 and the late Don Farr ’57.

In 1926, Theresa Lammers—for whom Lammers Hall is named—began her 39 years at the College as a physical education instructor. Lammers was appointed head of the Biology department in 1943 and Erna Bayless replaced Lammers as the physical education instructor, a position she held until her retirement in 1968.

In addition to the curriculum requirements for physical education, Lammers and Bayless pro-

moted participation as advisors of the Women’s Athletic Association (WAA), whose slogan was “a team for every girl and every girl on a team.”

Westfield State was a Normal School consisting of junior and senior women in the 1920s, and athletics competition was held between the two classes. Westfield State became a four-year school in 1934, and competitions were held between each of the four classes in the third floor gym at Dickinson Hall and the outdoor fields at the downtown campus.

Spearheaded by Lammers and the Student Athletic Council, the College adopted a new plan of athletic endeavor in October of 1937. The entire student body was divided into two teams, the Blues and the Whites. The purpose was to encourage competition between groups rather than between classes. Sports included basketball, softball, tennis, bowling and field hockey. Men—14 in total—returned to Westfield State in

1938 after an absence of 25 years, and the Men’s Athletic Association (MAA) was founded with Professor Frederick Conlin serving as the advisor for 10 years.

The first documented intercollegiate games in school history were during the 1939-40 academic year, when Westfield played men’s basketball games versus North Adams and Hyannis College. Interestingly, the Hyannis game at Cape Cod was broadcast by two student radio announcers.

After a six-year hiatus because of World War II, intercollegiate athletics for men resumed during the 1947-48 academic year and the first basketball game of the post-war era was played on Dec. 6, 1947, at Keene State in New Hampshire. Professor Edward Welch began an eight-year stint as the Men’s Athletic Association advisor, and he coached Westfield State’s first intercollegiate baseball team in 1950.

The first documented intercollegiate competition for women was in 1950, when Westfield played a home-and-home basketball series with American International College. It would be nearly 20 years, however, before Westfield State’s women played another intercol-





Images from athletic days gone by. At left, clockwise from left: the Westfield State field hockey players as pictured in the 1933 yearbook; the Class of 1933 women's basketball team; and Professor Erna Bayless, middle, with archery students circa 1960. Below left, President Edward J. Scanlon has tossed up the first ball in Westfield State's first competition in the new Parenzo Hall gymnasium in 1956; Hall of Famer Don Farr, left, and a Worcester State player seek to get the tap. Below right, the 1951 men's basketball team, which posted the best record in school history.

legiate game, due to factors including cost and the lack of teams with equal standing.

A new era of athletics began in 1956, when the college moved from downtown Westfield to Western Avenue. The new campus included a state-of-art gymnasium, and the first intercollegiate game in Parenzo Gym was a 76-54 men's basketball victory over Worcester State on Nov. 30.

Westfield State welcomed its first full-time athletics director and baseball/basketball coach—Charles “Bud” Hagan—in 1956, and Westfield State became a member of the popular 16-team New England State Teachers Conference. Hagan also served as a physical education instructor and offered many intramurals programs to the general student body, including volleyball, basketball, touch football and baseball.

Another significant year was 1963, when Paul Bogan began his 32-year stint as Westfield State's athletics director. Bogan also coached—baseball 10 years, basketball four years—and oversaw the rapid expansion of the varsity athletics program, which grew from three varsity teams—baseball, basketball, soccer—in the 1960s to 19 teams a decade later, in part due to the College's dramatic increase in enrollment and

the passage of the landmark Title IX legislation in 1972.

Dr. Tilia Fantasia, who chaired Westfield State's department of Physical Education for Women from 1968-1971, initiated the

women's varsity sports of field hockey, basketball, softball, gymnastics and volleyball shortly after arriving to Westfield State in 1966.

The College became a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Conference (NCAA) in 1965. The Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) was formed in June of 1971; it is the nation's oldest Division III men's and women's playing conference.

Three more varsity sports, including football in 1982, were added as Westfield State's athletics program reached a peak of 22 teams. The Massachusetts budget crisis of the late 1980s, however, forced the suspension of seven sports in 1989 to maintain a competitive and representative Intercollegiate Athletics department.

Kenneth Magarian '71 served a 10-year stint as athletics director from 1996-2005. Magarian had been the Owls' highly successful baseball coach in the late 1970s and directed Westfield State's popular intramurals program for more than two decades.

Westfield State received a huge boost when its long-awaited athletics field house—the Woodward Center—opened in September of 2004. The Woodward Center also serves academics, housing the highly acclaimed Westfield State movement science/athletic training program.

Westfield State continues to flourish today under the guidance of athletics director Richard Lenfest. Significant upgrades have been made to Westfield State's outdoor playing fields, additional coaches have achieved full-time status, and fund-raising efforts to

In 175 years:

Three NCAA Final Four teams:

1974, men's soccer; 1981, field hockey; 1982, softball

Four first-team All-Americans:

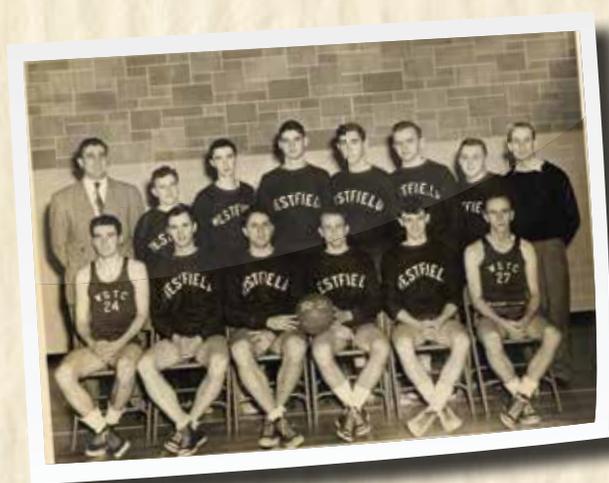
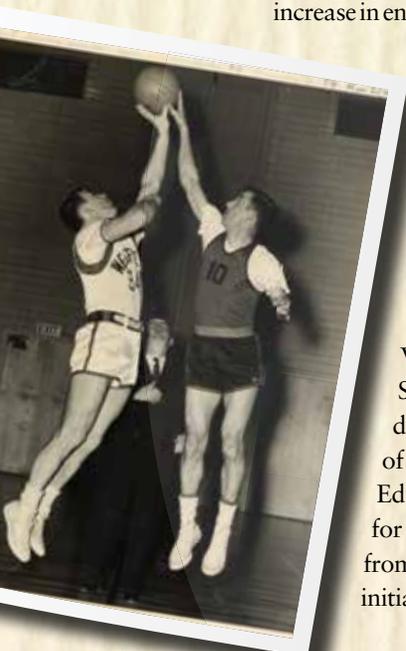
Mike Ciampa, baseball, 1979; Paula Eaton, softball, 1992; Josue Zamora, football, 2001; Josh Mathieu football, 2009

Eighteen conference scholar athletes of the year.

enhance the teams have dramatically increased. Field turf and a new press box were installed at Alumni Field in 2006, and the Jerry Gravel track was dedicated in 2009.

Gravel, the most successful and longest-tenured coach (1969-1997) in Westfield State history, guided the Owl to two New England championships and 20 MASCAC track and field titles and coached 32 All-American honors. The baseball and softball fields moved from the campus green to their present locations in 1989, and new dugouts were constructed at both fields in 2012. The baseball field was renamed Bud and Jim Hagan Field in 2013.

Westfield now offers 21 varsity sports—11 women, nine men and co-ed cheering—continuing the NCAA Division III philosophy of offering a broad-based athletics program to its student body. ■





In the Name of a Kind, Gentle Mentor

By Mickey Curtis, Sports Information Director

MATT DEVINE '13 OF PEMBROKE stood tall for the Westfield State University men's basketball team during the past four years, and he also stood tall when he proudly accepted the inaugural Coach John Kurty Contributions to Athletics Award.



Above left: Matt Devine shattered school records for blocked shots in a game, season and career. Above right: Matt Devine is presented the Coach John Kurty Contributions to Athletics Award by Westfield State athletics director Richard Lenfest.

The University's Contributions award takes on an even more significant meaning as it is named in honor of Coach Kurty, the highly respected Westfield State men's soccer coach who died tragically in a bicycle accident on Western Avenue last November.

Kurty, who retired from the Westfield State faculty in 1988, compiled a brilliant coaching record of 153 wins, 36 losses and 13 ties from 1966 to 1977. He led the Owls to five NCAA Tournament appearances and three New England State championships, and his 1974 team finished third in the nation. He also served as men's golf and men's volleyball head coach, an assistant baseball coach and longtime clock operator at Westfield State basketball games.

"More important than his brilliant coaching record, Coach Kurty was always a supporter of the Westfield State athletics program and a friend and mentor to many students and colleagues," says Westfield Athletics Director Richard Lenfest. "You couldn't meet a better man—his kind words, gentle manner and constant presence around the Athletics department will be greatly

missed.

The Coach John Kurty Contributions to Athletics Award will be presented annually; the award is bestowed upon a student athlete who best exemplifies Kurty's outstanding qualities, including commitment, loyalty, dedication, sportsmanship, leadership and athletic ability.

Devine is well-deserving of this prestigious award. He was a four-time all-conference selection who elevated the Westfield State University men's basketball program to new heights, as the 2012-2013 men's basketball team captured Westfield State's first outright MASCAC regular season championship, set a school record with 23 victories and finished second in the ECAC New England Tournament.

The 6-7 center with a 7-foot wingspan achieved national recognition for Westfield State as he led the NCAA Division III in blocked shots in each of the past two seasons.

An imposing presence inside, the 2013 All-New England and Northeast Region All-Star shattered school records for blocked shots in a game (9), season (130), and career (364). Also dependable, he played in a school record 108 games during his stellar four-year career. Devine ranks second in the Owl record books with 949 career rebounds and 10th with 1,279 points.

"Matthew brought intimidation from blocking shots to dominating down low," says Westfield State Veteran Head Coach Rich Sutter. "It's the reason coaches get into coaching—to watch young men like Matt develop into the players they are today. It's very rewarding." ■

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Stellar Student Takes State Scholar Athlete of the Year Award

By Mickey Curtis,
Sports Information Director

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY CONTINUED its long-standing success in the classroom and on the playing fields as track and field standout Tom Gauger '13 of Billerica was selected the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletics Conference (MASCAC) 2013 Senior Male Scholar Athlete of the Year.

The award is presented annually to male and female senior student athletes who have excelled both academically and athletically while a student of a Massachusetts state university. To be considered for the award, a student athlete must have achieved at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average and be in his or her last year of athletic eligibility.

Gauger is the 18th Westfield State student athlete to receive the prestigious MASCAC scholar athlete of the year award since its inception in 1980; nine men and nine women have received it in the past. Westfield State can boast of 18 scholar athlete honorees—the most in the eight-team conference, followed by Fitchburg State with 12. Six Westfield State student athletes have garnered the award in each of the past six years and eight in the past 10 years.

“Westfield State University is proud of Tom’s accomplishments, both athletically and academically. He has been an outstanding representative of Westfield State and the MASCAC,” says Westfield Athletics Director Richard Lenfest.

Gauger graduated from the University on May 17 with a criminal justice degree; he minored in psychology.

He excelled on the national, regional and conference levels as a record-setting performer in the pole vault. He was a four-time national qualifier and earned All-America honors twice, placing fourth in the 2013 NCAA indoor national championships and eighth in the 2012 outdoor championships.

Gauger set a school record by clearing 16-2 $\frac{3}{4}$ at last year’s NCAA outdoor championships. He also holds the school record for indoor pole vault (16-5 $\frac{1}{4}$), and is the MASCAC record holder for the indoor (15-9) and outdoor pole vault (15-9 $\frac{1}{4}$).

Gauger was the Westfield State University Senior Male Athlete of the Year and the Owls’ most valuable field athlete in 2012 and 2013. He was a seven-time MASCAC champion and a 10-time All-New England performer.

The talented athlete achieved a rare feat during the 2013 conference championships when he placed first in both the pole vault and long jump. Additionally, he finished second in the long jump with a personal best of 22-9 $\frac{3}{4}$ at the 2013 New England Division III outdoor championships.

Academically, Gauger was a dean’s list student six times, a four-time member of a MASCAC All-Academic team and a College Sports Information Directors of America Capital One Academic All-District nominee in 2012 and 2013.

Gauger was a two-year member of the Westfield State Student-Athlete Advisory Board and served as treasurer his senior year. He performed community service hours with the Red Cross, Special Olympics and Westfield Boys & Girls Club. ■



Tom Gauger '13—the 2013 Westfield State Male Athlete of the Year and the MASCAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year—was a two-time All-American and a four-time national qualifier in the pole vault.

Spring Highlights Include Cuba Trip and Championships

By Mickey Curtis, Sports Information Director



Westfield State's baseball team played two exhibition games versus the Havana Industriales in March.

A PHOTO FINISH AT THE NCAA TRACK and field championships, a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Cuba for the baseball team and an historic men's basketball season highlighted the Westfield State University 2013 spring semester.

Here's a look at these and other noteworthy accomplishments by the Owls' winter and spring sports teams.

Track and field

Sophomore Targie Gervais sprinted to a second place finish in the 60-meter dash at the NCAA Division III women's indoor track and



Targie Gervais '15

field national championships. Gervais ran a school record time of 7.61 seconds, 1/100ths of a second behind the national champion.

"Targie had a great start and was closing ground on the winner late, and it was a photo finish," says Westfield State Coach Sean O'Brien. "If Targie had another two or three meters, she would

have likely won."

Gervais also earned All-America status as a freshman by placing seventh in the 100-meter dash at the NCAA outdoor championships. Her quest for additional All-America honors was stalled, however, as she was sidelined during the outdoor track season with an injury.

Gervais set two of the eight school records by the women's track and field squad, which captured the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletics Conference (MASCAC) indoor championship. Freshman standout Naloti Palma shattered school records in the shot put and discus, won New England and ECAC shot put title and finished 11th at the NCAA outdoor nationals.

Senior co-captain Rachael Cardin was a team standout who also excelled academically. Cardin was Westfield State's Senior Female Scholar Athlete of the Year, selected to the college sports information directors of America Capital One Academic All-District

team and the MASCAC's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year.

Baseball

Prior to its annual spring break trip to Florida, the Westfield State baseball team spent three days in early March in Cuba, where it played exhibition games against the Havana Industriales in their 55,000 seat stadium. Westfield State dropped both games (5-3, 7-0) to the highly regarded professional team, but the scores did not matter as the Owls experienced Cuba's passion for baseball and the island's culture.

"I gained a whole new appreciation for the game of baseball," said Mike Sullivan, a Westfield State sophomore pitcher. "The Cuban players told us they only make \$15 per month playing baseball, but I didn't see anyone without a smile on their face the whole time we were there."

Athletics Director Richard Lenfest said, "The trip was amazing and the student athletes really appreciated the opportunity. We were very excited for our student athletes to experience this level of play. Our take-away is to be able to improve the caliber of our performance from playing teams in which baseball is so very important, as well as to provide an educational experience for our players that will last a lifetime."

There were 17 freshmen and eight sophomores on the 32-player baseball roster, and



Members of the University's baseball team make some new friends on their spring break trip to Cuba.



the Owls improved as the season progressed. Westfield State advanced to the championship game of the MASCAC Tournament, losing to Salem State in the finals. The Owls were led by senior catcher/outfielder Andrew Medeiros, an All-New England and all-conference selection, and senior all-conference outfielder Kevin Greene.

Men's basketball

The men's basketball team compiled a sensational season, winning its first outright MASCAC regular season championship and placing second in the ECAC New England Division III championships. The Owls set a school record for victories during the 23-6 season, led by the talented senior duo of Matt Devine and Lee Vazquez.

Devine again achieved national recognition as he led the nation in blocked shots for the second straight year. Vazquez ranks third on Westfield State's career-scoring charts with 1,575 points. The explosive 5-6 guard holds the school record for career steals and ranks second in three-point baskets made and free throw shooting percentage.

Vazquez and Devine received numerous post-season honors. They were selected the top two players in the MASCAC with Vazquez the unanimous selection as conference player of the year. Devine was an ECAC All-New England honoree and Vazquez was named to the National Basketball Coaches Association Northeast All-Region team. Both were selected to the d3hoops.com Northeast All-Star squad.

"They're probably the best tandem in Westfield

basketball history," said veteran Head Coach Rich Sutter. "You couldn't find two better guys, two better leaders. Their work ethic had a big impact on the younger players."

Women's basketball

The women's basketball team posted a fine 19-11 record, participating in the MASCAC Tournament championship game and advancing to the semi-finals of the ECAC

New England Tournament. Leading the Owls were sophomore all-conference selections Jen Ashton and Gabby Felix and MASCAC rookie of the year Keri Doldoorian.

Women's swimming and diving

The women's swimming and diving posted its 20th straight winning season under the guidance of veteran coach David Laing. The Owls placed 12th in New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA) championships led by sophomore Katie Sterpka and junior Kirsten LaMotte. Sterpka was the NEISDA and conference diver of the year in capturing the championships on the one- and three-meter boards. She also qualified for the NCAA Division III regionals.

Men's golf

Westfield State's men's golf team captured its first-ever MASCAC championship with a one-stroke victory over perennial power Salem State at the Blackstone National Golf Course in Sutton. Coach Sutter led the Owls to two MASCAC titles this year as his men's basketball team also claimed the conference crown. Juniors Joey Cooper, Tyler LaBonte and Rory Wilkovich, along with freshman Tyler

Olson, all registered scores in the top 10 as the Owls edged Salem by a stroke and Worcester State by two strokes.

Ice hockey

The Westfield State ice hockey team compiled a 14-9-3 record; the victories are the most in a season since the sport was re-started five years ago. And the Owls were ranked nationally for the first time after opening the season with six straight victories. Talented sophomore TJ Powers was the leading scorer and an all-conference second-team selection.

Women's lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team posted an overall record of 11-5 and finished second in the conference, falling to Bridgewater State, 13-10, in the championship game. The Owls landed seven players on the all-conference team, including first-team selections Maura Stack and Mimi Khampaeng, a freshman goalie who earned team MVP honors.

Stack finished her four-year collegiate career with 208 points, the third-best total in the Westfield State women's lacrosse program's seven-year history. ■



The men's basketball team posted the most victories in school history and, captured its first outright MASCAC regular season championship. Left to right are seniors Matt Devine, Lee Vazquez, Ryan White and Travis Nally, with Head Coach Rich Sutter.

suggested the University make civic engagement a graduation requirement, and the campus-wide Advisory Committee on Civic Engagement that President Evan S. Dobbelle created this year will look at that suggestion.

Nancy Salvidio, the associate vice president for Alumni and Community Relations, defines “civic engagement” as “an umbrella term for the activities that promote the bridging of communities with socially-conscious thought and action.” To Salvidio, civic engagement embraces experiential learning opportunities that provide those involved to become ethically-aware and community-responsive through political and non-political processes.

“It is the active and participatory focus to prepare learners for global citizenship,” she says.

“For higher education to be a leader in civic engagement, it needs to provide a relevant definition with clear civic learning outcomes,” Salvidio adds. “Civic engagement must be embraced in the curriculum and have strategic goals in non-academic learning objectives. We have a responsibility to ‘pay it forward’ and share our knowledge and values to make a difference in the lives of our students if they are to become critically-minded, global citizens.”

Dr. Susan Leggett, the new faculty director for civic engagement activities on campus, points out that the University’s commitment to service learning is not new for Westfield State. It goes back through the University’s 175 years to founder Horace Mann.

Civic engagement, she says, has long been an integral part of the campus’ mission and focus. And now, the University has the unique opportunity to grow that mission.

What’s most exciting about the development of the civic engagement program, Dr. Leggett says, is having the chance to arrange collaboration among faculty members so they can share ideas.

“It’s really bringing people together to share their work,” Dr. Leggett says, noting that members of the advisory committee are studying best practice documents to share with interested faculty.

“This will benefit students by providing them with opportunities to have a full experience that links their academics to their everyday lives,” she says.

“We want to show students that what’s happening in the world makes a difference to them and to show them how they can make a difference in the world.”

Faculty and staff at Westfield State have much experience to share in the civic engagement arena. (See story on faculty in the community, page 17).

Alumni are also well-known for giving back.

Dr. Leggett points out that 2013 is the Alumni Year of Service, in which alums are being encouraged to let the University know when they take part in civic engagement opportunities.

“This is a wide movement,” Dr. Leggett says. “We want our students to see themselves as agents of change and to really make a difference in the world. We’re really interested in building partnerships with organizations in the community so we can learn what they need from us and to really have a full opportunity to make our contributions meaningful.” ■

nity. For instance, the company partnered with the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts last spring in a father-daughter pizza-making party to get more fathers out and about with their daughters.

Since then, Scatolini and the three other fathers have also appeared on WGBY’s “Connecting Point” television show, and they continue to work to get their message heard.

Scatolini and the three other fathers have also appeared on WGBY’s “Connecting Point” television show, and they continue to work to get their message heard.

Part of the way the message is spread is through the sale of T-shirts and hats and other memorabilia with the message that reads, “Being There.”

Proceeds go to nonprofit organizations such as Rick’s Place, a bereavement center for families in Wilbraham.

“We don’t want to see it become too late for any father,” says Scatolini, adding that if fathers don’t give their daughters the attention they need, “they’ll get it from somewhere else.

“Our daughters need the support of their fathers now more than ever,” he adds. “If you’re willing to guide your daughter, to stand between her and a toxic culture, to take her to a healthier place, your rewards will be unmatched.”

Learn more about FourFathers at www.fourfathers.us. ■

in the Student Government Association reported that they felt more comfortable in their first-year classes as freshmen and that first-year-only classes helped with the transition to the college environment in a more intensive way than their other courses.

Additionally, the University hosted a lecture by Sudhir Venkatesh, author of First-Year READ pick *Gang Leader for a Day*, in November 2012, an estimated 600 of whom were first-year students.

“All of our initiatives for first-year students are about student success,” says Dr. Marotta. “We have among the best retention and graduation rates in the state university system, and we’re committed to doing even better. That means putting in place programs that will give students a solid foundation, giving them special attention from the moment they choose Westfield State.” ■

whose students seek out our courses not only for credit but for intellectual challenge and enrichment,” Tetrault says.

The University prides itself on being a “private-quality” institution at a “public value,” and Tetrault reports that his students are at the same level academically as those he taught at Boston University, and they have better attitudes.

“Generally, students at Westfield State are ‘real,’ unpretentious, and every bit as bright as those at BU,” Tetrault says.

“I enjoy working at Westfield State because of my students and fellow professors,” Tetrault says. “The particular feature of University life I favor most is my classroom with old-fashioned blackboards and students willing to learn.”

Erika Pilver, Political Science

Professor of political science Erika Pilver has seen Political Science transform into its own department since her start in 1975.

“When I arrived, the two professors teaching political science were in the History department,” Pilver says. “My first year here, we worked to get Political Science as a department and were successful.”

The department now has six full-time and two to three part-time faculty members. It has expanded to allow new topics of study, including international relations, public administration and Asian studies.

Pilver reports that throughout her nearly 40 years of teaching, her favorite memory was when Evan S. Dobbelle became president.

“He brought to the campus an excitement for students as well as others,” Pilver says. “He elicits opinions from those on campus and listens to them. He has also protected department lines and other jobs, contrary to what has been done on other campuses.”

It has transformed from a teaching college to a university with 31 different majors with 43 concentrations.

“Continual progress” is what Pilver says has remained consistent throughout her career at the University. It has transformed from a teaching college to a university with 31 different majors with 43 concentrations.

When it comes to her favorite facet of working at Westfield State, like Tetrault, Pilver says it’s all about the positive attitudes.

Shirley Acquah, Communication

While professor of communication Shirley Acquah has just finished her first year of teaching at Westfield State, the University and its faculty have made quite an impression on her.

“The faculty and administrative staff in my department are caring and extremely supportive,” Acquah says. “Each person is always willing to help in any way they can, and this made my assimilation process seamless.”

Acquah said that though she came from Ohio State, a much larger university, she is impressed with Westfield State’s diversity programs.

“I find that initiatives such as the Short-Term International Study Abroad and Sankofa (which promotes unity and diversity) are excellent

activities that will broaden students’ horizons and knowledge,” Acquah says.

In addition to the diverse faculty and programs, Acquah said that she has enjoyed working and connecting with her students.

“Working with students at Westfield State has been rewarding,” Acquah says. “Not only do we co-construct knowledge in the classroom, but I get to know them as individuals outside of class.”

Acquah says that overall, she had a successful first year teaching and was able to establish a connection to the University.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year here, and this has been possible due to the support I received from faculty in my department as well as other staff and faculty on campus,” Acquah says. “Moreover, the sense of community within the University makes it an endearing place to work.” ■

ONLINE DEGREE Continued from page 19

psychology and sociology.

Westfield State is responding to today’s increasing demand for higher education to accommodate students with the many distractions that sometimes prohibit further schooling.

“Many of our online students are employed and from the eastern part of Massachusetts, so they aren’t able to get to campus,” Meaghan Arena, associate dean in the DGCE, says, noting that the convenience of online learning meshes seamlessly with the busy lives of students.

“Online, students can study on their own time schedule, from anywhere,” Arena says, “Even from Europe. We have had international inquiries that are very exciting. Our classes do not require students to be online at specific times, so varying international time zones are easily accommodated, allowing for maximum learning time flexibility.”

While the online program is designed for students who have completed an associate’s degree, students who have earned college credits may also apply. The DGCE staff is equipped to answer all questions and advise students at every turn.

Arena says, “We have an outreach specialist right here in the DGCE office. We can facilitate a student’s enrollment to the program, transfers and arrange for them to meet with department heads and faculty.”

In addition, the DGCE has recently launched an online Orientation Program specifically for online students. “We try to make a coordinated effort here in DGCE and throughout the campus to make students comfortable and feel supported as they go through the program,” says Arena.

Students have many reasons to consider an online degree program: cost-friendly courses, limited time due to work and family commitments or a strong desire to advance their career.

Kimberly Tobin, dean of DGCE says, “President Dobbelle has prioritized online education, and we are definitely ahead of the curve.

“People are becoming more technologically comfortable and understand how online classrooms can mimic an in-person experience, and we are seeing tremendous growth and increasing respect from employers for student outcomes.” ■

The most apparent difference to Brill was the prominence of religion in daily life. “As opposed to the Western world where organized religion and public displays of devoutness have been in decline, Islam, more than faith alone, is very much a way of life for the majority of Jordanians and Omanis.”

Brill says he continues to go back to the Middle East out of a deep-seated interest in its peoples and to feed his love of studying the Arabic language.

He also explained that the conflict is not as present in every day life as the U.S. media makes it seem. “Much of what certain elements of the media and political spectrum portray as anti-American or anti-Western is really not what they make it out to be,” Brill says. “I met countless Jordanians and Omanis absolutely opposed to U.S. government policies in the Middle East, but never did I feel uncomfortable or that their anger was directed at me personally.”

Because Brill was there on an academic scholarship, he spent most of his time in a campus setting at the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman in Jordan, and the Center for International Learning in Oman.

“Reading is most important to me,” Brill says. “I need to be able to read and understand the language quickly and efficiently.”

While in the states awaiting his return to the Middle East last spring, Brill applied to graduate programs and was accepted to the University of Chicago as well as Georgetown University, among others. “It was essential for me to have Arabic, along with good grades, to get into Georgetown,” says Brill. Many of the programs he has been accepted to have been generous enough to let him defer for his full-year fellowship in Jordan.

His experiences impacted his admission into graduate school; his application for Georgetown was a scholarly essay on the conflict in Syria, which he experienced almost first-hand while living in Jordan.

In 2010, after his first course in Arabic, Brill participated in a two-week J-term travel course in Jordan with Professor John Paulmann and five other students. Brill made friends from across the world and learned about the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) program, where he applied for a grant while continuing his Arabic studies with Professor Brahim Oulbeid at Westfield State.

Brill was awarded the grant that February and anxiously awaited news of which Middle Eastern country he would be travelling to – with choices including Morocco and Tunisia. That summer, he spent eight weeks in Oman and learned more about the country than he ever would in a classroom.

Brill’s interest in the Middle East continued to grow during his senior year of college. He wrote news articles about the conflicts there for the *Campus Voice*, and recounted stories of his time in Oman for the *Squirrel Squire*. His writing culminated in a senior’s honors project about the Iran-Iraq War. Brill applied again to the CLS program and received another grant allowing him to return to Jordan for the second time after graduating in the spring of 2012.

“I want to emphasize that the opportunities to do this started at Westfield State, through J-term opportunities and the option to take Arabic classes,” he says, noting that he encourages all students to study foreign languages and let the opportunities unfold. ■

suffered a small skull fracture and was at Children’s Hospital.

Her friend’s response: “I still have a husband and son. That’s all I need to know for now.”

A week later, Mellone put on her Alzheimer’s Association shirt and bib number and went back to Boston to finish the race she started.

“Friends assembled in Copley thanks to a Facebook post, and I finished what I set out to do,” says Mellone. “The Boston Athletic Association has decided to give the non-finishers that made it past the half-marathon mark a bib for next year, and I couldn’t be more excited. Once again, I’ll be running in memory of my grandfather with my Alzheimer’s Association team, and the dream I shared with my grandfather will come true.”

The weeks that followed the marathon were traumatic ones for Arrison and many of her friends that were either runners, spectators or volunteers.

“Many of us sought a counseling session,” she says. “Many of us participated in group runs or candlelight vigils. It was a grief and a stress like no other that I had felt before.” ■

graders for an hour and a half each day.

“We taught the children things like how to tell time, the days of the week and the months of the year,” says Craig Levine ’14, one of the students who traveled with Bradford to Nicaragua.

Chelsea Reynolds ’14 says that it was her first time travelling abroad, and, although she barely spoke Spanish, she felt that the language barrier did not stop her from having a transformative experience. “We could still communicate through facial and body expression,” she says.

Time on the trip was divided into “work days” and “culture days,” as Bradford called them. On culture days, usually on the weekends, the students would travel. The group went zip-lining, explored the city of Leon, visited a Nicaraguan beach and sat in box seats at a national baseball game.

Bradford says that the trip was the kind of experience that changes students’ outlooks on life. “A class like this helps you figure out why it’s important to care about more than the material items that you have,” she says.

Deryn Copeland ’15 says, “It taught me things about myself and about working with others that I couldn’t have learned anywhere else. It made me decide that the only career path that would make me happy would be the one that includes volunteer work, travel and, of course, service.”

Over the course of three years, students have raised over \$15,000 for La Esperanza Granada. Bradford says she hopes to raise more when she takes another group of students in January 2014. Copeland says, “As someone who came to college feeling like I had no intense interest or passions... Nicaragua helped me realize who I am and who I want to be.” ■

it status.

As a local bicyclist interested in improving both the safety and convenience of local biking, the professor of Geography and Regional Planning is adamant about the positive influence the Greenway will have on the community.

“I believe multi-use paths are one of the best investments communities can make. These facilities can do

so much, such as serve as a transportation corridor for commuting to work or taking a trip to the post office or store,” she says. “Not only are the uses versatile, the users are diverse—from youngsters on bikes to the elderly on daily walks to mothers pushing carriages and serious cyclists racking up the miles.”

The Friends of the Columbia Greenway focuses on developing and maintaining the Columbia Greenway in Westfield and its surrounding areas, as well as pushing for more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly aspects within the city. When finished, the Greenway will provide elevated views of urban areas, such as downtown Westfield, as well as scenic views of the local rivers and forests as it provides a safe route to admire the land.

In her planning, Bull has prompted local businesses to provide bike parking to prepare for bicyclists and other Greenway users who will be coming through the city. Bull cites the trail’s potential for drawing visitors in to the city, adding to the local economy in downtown Westfield.

In addition to the Greenway, the group also aims to improve other areas near the University, such as Western Avenue, by making them friendlier to bicyclists.

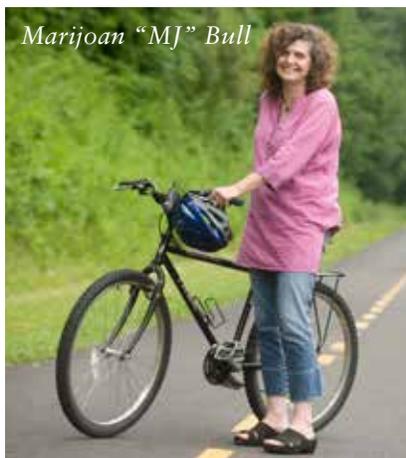
To blend what she is doing outside the classroom into the classroom, Bull challenged her students to write a Bicycle Plan in 2009 that would link the Greenway and Western Avenue. Her work helps to show her students the importance of getting involved, aiding their growth as professional regional planners.

It has also served as the inspiration for numerous students’ Regional Planning capstone projects, which serve as a practical application of their knowledge in the subject area.

Michael Young, Physical Science

Michael Young, an associate professor in Physical Science at Westfield State, first joined the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA) board in 1999. For him, it was a means of feeding an interest to get involved in areas concerning the environment and outdoor recreation.

Established in 1953, the nonprofit Watershed Association works to spread awareness in the community about its work, which focuses around protecting the watershed while improving its natural resources. Also focusing on the expansion of the land for outdoor



Marijoan “MJ” Bull

In addition to the Greenway, the group also aims to improve other areas near the University, such as Western Avenue, by making them friendlier to bicyclists.

recreational activities, WRWA turned out to be the perfect fit for Young.

“(The Watershed) contains substantial blocks of contiguous forest as well as high-quality streams and rivers, so there are quite a few opportunities for hiking, canoeing, fishing and other outdoor activities close by,” says Young.

Since joining, Young has served as the organization’s president for three years and as secretary for an additional three. He’s managed to do all this while also maintaining the group’s website.

His favorite event, the Atlantic Salmon Egg-Rearing Program (ASERP), ran from 2002 to the spring of 2013. Young led the charge each year in assisting local students

in up to 10 local elementary and middle schools in raising a few hundred salmon eggs (per school) to the fry stage and releasing the fry back into local streams.

In assisting the local efforts, Young and contributing faculty and college students got involved in the hands-on work and were able to give back to younger students in the community.

More recently, Young has taken part in the storm drain-labeling program. Over the past three summers, the program has proved successful by raising awareness in the communities where local drains exist. Colorful labels mark drains that run straight to the Westfield River, making people think twice before they dispose of any foreign substances (pet waste, oil, etc.) in the drains.

Young says, “My work with WRWA has definitely given me a better perspective on the local environment.”

It has also given students better perspective as well.

Young’s work with the WRWA over the years has led to an increase in the amount of University students involved in recent years, seeing Westfield State students helping out with both the drain labeling and ASERP programs.

The string of University faculty members who have been a part of the organization is a bit longer, showing a history of great involvement from the University over the last 15 to 20 years.

This year Professor Brian Conz, who joined the group in 2010, was named the group’s president, while faculty members Aaron Reyes and Mark Damon are serving on the board.

For more info on Plasse, Bull and Young and the organizations for which they volunteer, check out their websites at westfieldonweekends.com, columbiagreenway.org and westfieldriver.org. ■



Michael Young

Update from the Alumni Association President



A year of presidency of the Alumni Association is drawing to a close for Kelli A. Nielsen '04. She offers this message to fellow alumni:

“I want to take the time to thank you for your emails, hours of service and time spent volunteering with our organization. While the Westfield State Alumni Year of Service started this year, it will continue in future years with an annual event in Westfield or around the state, updates on the website and opportunities for alumni to gather wherever they are.

“Representing 35,000 alums can seem overwhelming but, as each email or opportunity to meet someone new arrived, I understood more and more about making a difference, one person at a time. I invite you to continue to let us know about the important volunteer work you are doing and, should you come up with a plan that needs assistance, send us a note.

“We will be looking for annual sites to continue our impact on the communities we live in. Thank you all for keeping the amazing legacy of Westfield State service alive in your part of the world.”

Incoming President of the Alumni Association



Tracey Innella Pinto '85 will begin her term as president of the Westfield State Alumni Association on Oct. 19 at Homecoming 2013. Tracey is no stranger to the Association as she has served as a member of the Executive Council since the board was redesigned in 2009. She is passionate about the campus and has worked to reunite alums with reunion events for the Class of 1985 and this year's "Winter White Swag" event in Boston. We look forward to her term as president.

175th Homecoming Weekend Mardi Gras

Mark your calendars for the 175th Homecoming Weekend Mardi Gras celebration on Oct. 19. We are honoring our campus with a fantastic, New Orleans-inspired jamboree to highlight all the wonderful things that make Westfield State an inspiring educational institution.

Our day begins when we honor our Distinguished Alumnus in a morning ceremony, and then we'll adjourn to the Horace Mann Center parking lot to join the Westfield State Alumni Association Executive Council as we kick off our third annual Tailgate Party featuring Billy G and the Blue Zone.

After the Tailgate, we'll enjoy Louisiana-inspired food, delicious drinks and great New Orleans Jazz and Westfield State's own Big Band while we watch the Owls Football team take on Mass Maritime in a game that's sure to bring out your alumni pride. Following the event, we'll bring the party down to the Westwood Restaurant and Pub to round out our celebration.

For more information and to register, please visit westfieldalumni.org/homecoming.

Class of 1989 Plans 25th Anniversary Celebration on Reunion weekend 2014

Now is the time to start planning our 25 Year Reunion Weekend for June 21-22, 2014.

Don and Janice Humason are looking for fellow Class of 1989 alumni to join them in planning a great weekend. They want to form a Reunion Planning Committee to get started, and they hope to hear from classmates.

Please contact Kathi Bradford at (413) 572-5404 or kbradford@westfield.ma.edu if you want to be part of the planning for this reunion or the reunions for other classes ending in 9 and 4, the Residential Life Staff and the Orientation team. For more details of the Class of 1989 gathering, visit westfieldalumni.org/1989.

Alumni Travel Program

Interested in travel? We are heading to Dublin for a City Stay in March and Italy (Lake Como)/Switzerland in the spring.

Over 150 alumni, family, friends and students have joined us as we travel the world. Check out the latest news at www.westfieldalumni.org/travel.

Stay in Touch

Want to know the latest and greatest from your alma mater? We also want to hear from you.

Please take a moment to share your updated contact information on our easy-to-use form at westfieldalumni.org/update. You can update your address and email address, let us know if you want to volunteer or share your latest news with us. It's quick and easy.

Alumni Year of Service

Under the direction of Alumni President Kelli Nielsen '04, our first, soon-to-be annual alumni project was held on June 1 and revolved around downtown renovation.

Ten alumni and friends gathered at Shenanigans Pub to redesign and paint the storefront with lead alumni artist Omarthan Clarke '07.

While the day was hot and blistering, the staff at Shenanigans kept the cold water and delicious food coming. Stop by when you come into town and/or join us next year as we plan another fun, alumni project on June 7, 2014.



Hall of Fame Induction



Nanci Salvidio '73

The 18th Annual Westfield State University Athletics Hall of Fame inductions banquet will be held during Homecoming weekend on Friday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2013 includes: Robert Bogan '87, football; Diana Cares '00, cross country/track; David Kaczynski '83, track and field; Nanci (Mahoney) Salvidio '73, field hockey/basketball/softball; and Josue Zamora '02, football.

Dr. Karl Leiker, a professor at Westfield State since 1976, will receive the James C. Hagan Award, which is presented by the Hall of Fame to recognize sustained excellent service in support of the Westfield State athletics program.

For details of this year's event, including stories for each inductee, go to the Hall of Fame link at WestfieldStateOwls.com. Contact the Westfield State Athletics department at (413) 572-5433 for tickets and additional information.

The Westfield State Athletics Hall of Fame Committee encourages alumni, family and friends to nominate deserving candidates for the Hall of Fame. The nomination form is located online at the Owls' athletics website.

IRELAND

Stay Put Ireland
[October 6-14, 2013]

Dublin City Stay
[March 7-14, 2014]

westfieldalumni.org/travel

One of the best ways to continue your life-long learning process is through travel.

Lake Como, Italy and Switzerland
[May 3-11, 2014]

ITALY

Westfield
STATE UNIVERSITY
Founded 1838

CLASS NOTES

For more detailed information on these stories, please visit our FOCUS magazine online at westfield.ma.edu/focus.

Weddings

1995



Rachel Orenstein married Brian Siegel on Oct. 14, 2012. Rachel is currently employed as a clinical social worker with Tufts Health Plan in Boston. The couple lives in Boylston.

2004



Anne-Elizabeth Dupre married Carmichael on Oct. 28, 2012. Anne-Elizabeth is currently a reading specialist with Holyoke Community Charter School in Holyoke. The couple lives in Chicopee.

2005



Jessica Bobrowski married John Petrone on Sept. 8, 2012.

Jessica is an assistant branch manager with Hampden Bank in Springfield. The couple lives in Springfield.



Carla Marie Santaniello married Jonathan Patrick Ryan on Dec. 31,

2012. Carla is employed as a communications and marketing specialist with Springfield College. The couple lives in West Springfield.

2008



Sara Ciechomski and Sean Bobbin were married on Oct. 13, 2012. Sara is an administrative

assistant and traffic manager at Saga Communications in East Longmeadow.

Jason Dynak married Monica Morel on Sept. 14, 2012. Jason is an agency license coordinator with Mass Mutual Financial Group in South Carolina. The couple lives in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Lindsey Joyal and Jeffrey Sombrowsky '06 were married on Oct. 5, 2012. Both are graduates of Westfield State.

2009



Mallory Tobin married Michael Griffin on Oct. 26, 2012. She is employed as a toddler teacher at

the People's Institute in Northampton.

2010



Brittany Suslak married Matthew Lechter on April 27 in East Bridgewater. Matthew is currently employed as an area coordinator at Dean College.

Brittany is a sales coordinator at eClinicalWorks. The couple lives in Franklin.



Marianne Madru married Brett Ralph '09 on June 23, 2012.

Brett currently is employed with Travelers Insurance Company and

Marianne is employed with Berkshire Bank. The couple lives in Suffield, Conn.

Michelle Prikacki and Scott Caron were married Aug. 11, 2012.

Births



Colin Tansey '08 and Jessica Mowatt Tansey '09, M '11 are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Mia Katharine, born on Jan. 10. Mia and family are doing great.

News

1960



The late Donald Prescott is pictured here at the 2011 Commencement ceremony with President Evan S. Dobelle and classmate and friend Robert T. Hendry. Both Donald and Robert attended the ceremony as Golden Owls—alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Donald passed away on June 21, 2012.

1963



John Quinn and his wife, Denise, had the privilege of serving as this year's parade marshals for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. They are pictured here in 2009 working on Nora's Ark, Westfield's entry into the float competition in that year's St. Patrick's Parade in Holyoke.

1974

Michael Harrigan is enjoying retirement after 42 years as an educator in East Windsor, Conn., High School. He is now working as a realtor with Landmark Realtors of East Longmeadow.



Steven Hiersche has been named superintendent of the Mashpee School District.

1976

The College Board recently presented David R. Gelinas, senior associate dean and director of financial aid at Davidson College, with the Eleanor S. Morris Service Award.

1977

Nancy Lavarney has been appointed to serve on the Vermont Commission on Women. She is currently career development specialist at the South Burlington, VT High School Career Development Center.

1978

Bob Benn has once again led the Westfield State alumni team for the annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. The team came in 42nd out of 932 teams and raised \$24,565 in 2012. The team is made up of many Westfield State grads from the 1970s. Among the participants is Tom Convery, who has walked 12 years straight in memory of one of his "Wish" kids; Tom has been a Make-A-Wish volunteer since 1994.

1980

Kathy Hickey Moore finished 15th out of almost 8,000 walkers in the 2012 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. Moore has raised over \$139,000 over the past 17 years for

the Walk.

Daniel Martin has been named a police officer for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Daniel is a recently retired city police officer after 31 years of service.

1982



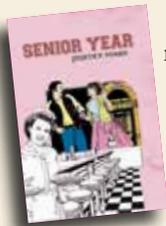
Laurie Mason has been appointed as the director of special education for the Brockton school district. Laurie has been employed by the city's schools since 1988 and most recently worked as the assistant director of special education.

1983

Michael P. Daly has been elected chairman of the board of directors of Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc., the financial institution's holding company. A Pittsfield native, Michael was appointed president and CEO of both the holding company and the bank in October 2002.

Dan Kane was recently named as Scholastic's Outstanding Educator of the Year 2013. This is a nationwide award given to four teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching.

1984



Judith Foard's new book, *Senior Year*, pulls experience from her childhood, her time as a teacher and

history to tell a tale where "Glee" meets old Hollywood drama and glamour. *Senior Year* tells a story that spans generations, intriguing readers of all ages. Foard is the spouse of the late Lawrence C. Foard, a professor of philosophy and religion at Westfield State for 30 years.

1985



Janice Beetle is excited to announce the publication of her first book, *Divine Renovations: A*

Carpenter, His Soul Mate and Their Story of Love and Loss. The



book is a memoir about Janice's late husband, Ed Godleski. It's a story of love and a story of hope, and it has been called "remarkable," "spare" and "brutally honest."

1987

John M. DeAngelo has been named city personnel director for the town of Pittsfield.

1990



Bob Anderson serves as bench and pitching coach for the New England Women's Red Sox baseball team. His key involvement helped lead the team to its win of the 2012 Roy Hobbs World Series.

1991

Diane Dugas has been named superintendent of East Hampton, Conn.'s, public school district.

Dr. John G. Lees has been named executive director of KidsPeace Psychiatric Hospital, Orchard Hills Campus in Orefield, Penn. He will oversee hospital operations, including staffing, program development and quality of patient care.

1993

Shelly Chadwick has been appointed as segment controller—process industries within The Timken Company's Bearing & Power Transmission Group. She previously served as assistant controller for The Timken Company, and lives in Hudson, Ohio, with her family.

Madeline Claudio has been named the new East Street branch officer of Chicopee Savings Bank.

Lauren Dubeau has been named principal for the Center School in Hopkinton. Lauren previously served as principal for the Simonian Center for Early Learning in Sutton.



PeoplesBank has announced the promotion of **Sean P. St. Marie** to deposit operations officer. A resident of

Holyoke, Sean has 10 years of financial and banking experience.

1994



Ian Cyr, an 18-year veteran of the University of Massachusetts Amherst police department has

been named deputy chief of operations.

John H. Joyce, a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual, has been honored with membership into its 2012 Forum group, which recognizes an outstanding year of helping people achieve financial security.

Neil Murphy has recently been appointed athletic administrator for Sandwich High School. He comes to Sandwich from Harvard University, where he spent the last 16 years, most recently serving as the assistant director of the Harvard Varsity Club. He lives in Scituate with his wife, Amy, and three children—Ryan, 9, Quinn, 6, and Ella, 3.

1998



Aaron Dean of Adams has been appointed the new principal of Stearns Elementary School in Pittsfield.



Jennifer M. Gallant has been named the chief financial officer for The Polish National Credit

Union. She lives in Chicopee with her husband, Steve, and three daughters.

2001



Nikali Benkert was recognized as a Local Hero from the Ronald McDonald House Charities. The award,

one of 10 given to teachers in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut last year, came with a \$1,000 prize for Agawam High School, where Nikali teaches math.

Andrew Feldman, Jr. has been promoted to eBanking officer for Berkshire Hills Bancorp. He advanced from the branch manager position at the main office, where he has worked since 2009.



Carmella Rossomando-Heise has been named Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) 2014 Teacher of the Year. She is a music teacher at ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School (WIMS) in Hamden, Conn., and began her career with ACES in 2002.

2002

The Dalton Select Board has appointed Officer **Christopher Furlong** to the rank of sergeant. He has been a decorated member of the National Guard for 16 years.

2003



Katelin Kennedy has been named principal of South School in Peabody. She has been an educator at South School for the past nine years.

2006



Daniel Smith has been promoted from detective to sergeant at the Middletown, Conn., Police Department. He has been with the department since 2006 and is a resident of Middletown.

2007

Verizon Wireless has named **Joshua Rhodes** manager to business sales in Rocky Hill, Conn., to the company's prestigious President's

Cabinet. The honor is reserved for those who performed in the top 1 percent nationally in sales during 2012. He is also currently a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

2009



Michael Barone was appointed to the Amherst Police Department force after an extensive selection process. Michael was employed previously as a police officer for the Provincetown Police Department.



Rebecca Everett received an award from the New England

Newspaper and Press Association (NENPA) for her coverage in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* of a sexual harassment case in Easthampton. Rebecca accepted one of 16 Public Occurrences awards given out to New England newspapers in 2012. The awards recognize "the very best work that New England newspapers produce each year," according to NENPA.

She is employed as a staff writer at the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*.



Gregory Nuttelman, chief operator of the City of Northampton Mountain Street Water Treatment Plant, has been named

Northampton Department of Public Works Employee of the Year.



Three Westfield State Alumni graduated from the Boston Police Academy in July 2012. Pictured are **Steve Hamilton '10** of Easton, **Mike Breault '09** of Westford and **Kevin Aldred '09** of Randolph.

2010



Kristin Mazeika has joined the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center as the social catering manager.

2011

Susan Callahan was selected as a member of Westfield's 2013 Colleen Court. Susan was chosen from a group of young female contestants from Southwick, the Hilltowns and Westfield.

Joseph Dalessio has been appointed as an officer for the town of East Longmeadow Police Department.

Adam Schmidt has joined the Maine State Police Troop A and will patrol in the Lebanon, Maine, area.

2012



Corey Tobin has joined Gilbane Building Company as an associate regional accountant in the Boston

office. He joined Gilbane as an accounting intern in September 2012.

In Memoriam

1929

Lorraine M. (Ross) Brinson
Olga (Snyder) Tillema

1935

Virginia E. (Walker) Greenwood

1935

Dr. Regina T. Henderson

1936

Rita P. (Blanan) Kusek

1937

Mary "Rita" (Gibbons) Umphries

1940

Ruth E. (Syriac) Della-Luna

1944

Eleanor F. (Hennrikus) Case
Anne E. (McDonough) MacKay

1945

Madeline L. (McGrail) Raison

1946

Shirley (Thompson) Scott

1948

Dorothy J. (O'Sullivan) LaBerge

1953

Ann L. (Coonan) Cavanaugh
Loretta "Lori" A. (Mastrangelo) Troiano

1957

Kathleen M. "Kay" Sheehan
Marilyn E. (Keane) Shine

1959

Kathryn L. (Kelley) Breck
Robert Young

1961

John F. Doyle, Jr.

1962

Eleanor K. (Coffey) Dwyer
Eileen F. Lovett

1964

Robert Donovan

1965

Earl Erikson

1964

Michael Pavlovich M '72

1966

Francis E. Best
Paul Giguere
Michael P. Pavlovich

1967

Thomas A. Waldron

1971

Vicki A. (Williams) DeForge
Betty Ann (Moynihan) Van der
Wolk

1973

Ruth Holman

1974

Jane (Berestecki) Baatz
Gary B. Cahill
Wendy C. (Warren) O'Brien

1977

Bernard Grummell

1979

Laura A. Cizek-Carr
Michael Dowd
Jacqueline Pressey

1980

Helen G. (Juknevicz) Hagan

1981

Karen A. Terrell

1985

Joseph G. Silipo, Jr.
Robert A. Young

1987

Hutson W. Inniss

1988

Lisa M. (Dinger) Dinkins
Daniel M. Doherty, Jr.

1992

Christine N. (Jelloe) Villanueva

1994

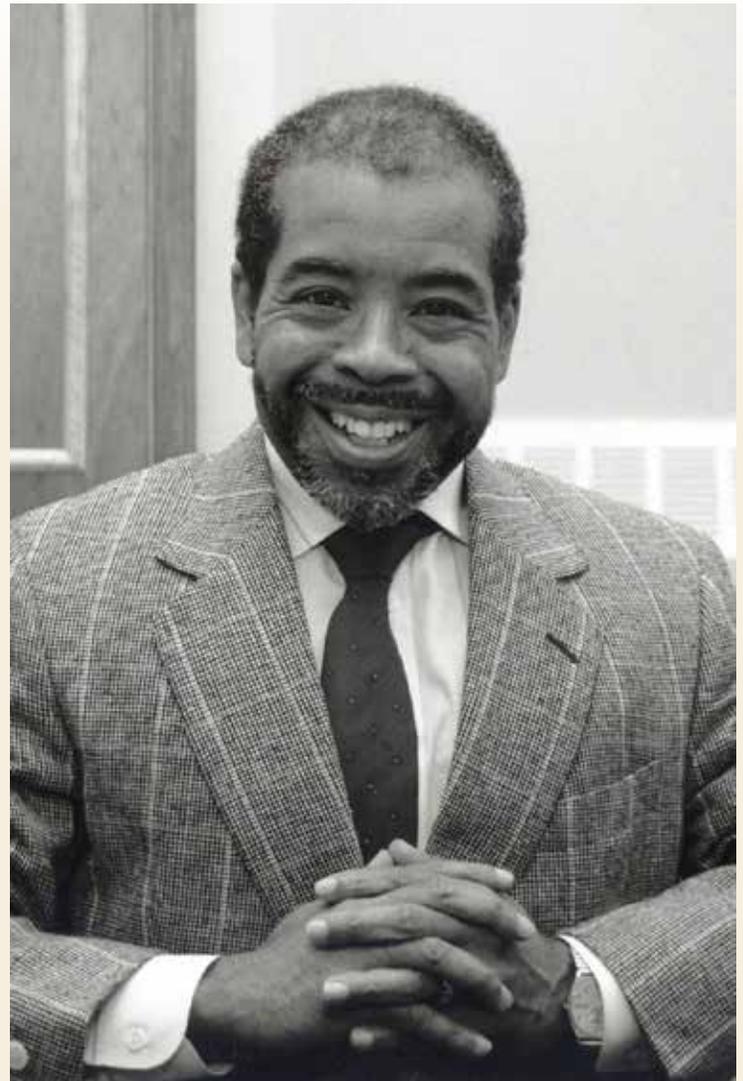
Mary L. McDonald

2000

Eric Wolcheck

Faculty

Dr. Donald "Doc" Bastarache,
Professor Emeritus of Music
Dr. Randolph W. Bromery,
Interim President



William Henry Lopes, Ph.D.

OCT. 25, 1946 – JULY 30, 2013

William Henry Lopes, 66, of Holyoke, Mass., died peacefully Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., after a long struggle with diabetes. He was the husband of the late Sandra Gaines Lopes. He was the father of William Manuel Lopes, Ph.D. of Holyoke and Chicago, Ill., and Mitchell Allen Lopes of Holyoke.

Bill retired in 2012 following a 24-year career at Westfield State. During his years at Westfield State he served as vice president of academic affairs and later as professor of education. He served as acting President during the 1996 to 1997 academic year. He was inducted into the ranks of Westfield State's distinguished faculty emeritus as professor emeritus during graduation ceremonies in May of this year.

A celebration of Bill's life was held on Monday, Aug. 5 in Dever Auditorium.

Honoring A Social Worker With Heart

Family creates scholarship through Westfield State Foundation, Inc. to memorialize their daughter

By Janice Beetle '85

Nancy S. Cavanaugh was a tow head when she was a young child, and she loved to dress up, sing and otherwise entertain her parents.

“She was just a little spitfire,” says her mother, Ellen Dalton of Beverly Farms, a community just outside of Boston.

By high school, Cavanaugh—“Nan” to those who knew her well—was a scholar and an ambassador. She loved her friends and her dog Nebraska, and she had a compassionate conscience and the ability to reach out to others who were less fortunate. She was the kind of girl who befriended students who were sitting alone in the cafeteria, the kind of girl who knew how to bring people into the fold.

“That was who Nan was,” Dalton says. This lovely woman with a gift for helping others could not connect to the help she needed for herself, though. She battled depression, anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder as a young adult, and in April 2012, one month before she would have received a master’s degree in social work from Westfield State University, Cavanaugh took her own life.

She was 24.

Dalton will never know what prompted her daughter’s decision, and she doesn’t want to focus on the fact that Cavanaugh’s needs went unmet by the mental health system.

Instead, Dalton wants to focus on the gifts her daughter gave to the world—and those she would have given if she had lived out her life. To keep her memory alive and to benefit other students with a passion for giving of themselves, Dalton, her three surviving children and Cavanaugh’s father,

Derek Cavanaugh of Boston, have established The Nancy S. Cavanaugh Scholarship Fund. This scholarship, administered by the Westfield State Foundation, Inc., will be awarded annually to a graduate student in social work in good academic standing, with financial need taken into account.

“We wanted to make sure there was some legacy that she left,” Dalton said. “She would have been an incredible social worker. She was smart. She was in tune with people and their needs, and she really had a passion for working with people, especially kids. It just seemed like, if we could give somebody else a leg up, that that would be very fitting.”

Cavanaugh earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and after graduation, she worked for the Key Program Inc., a nonprofit organization in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts with a mission to assist troubled youth and their families in developing positive life skills and life experiences. “She felt a calling to help. She was wonderful at relating to the girls at the group home, and they brought joy to her life,” Dalton says.

Dalton said her daughter loved thinking up new ways to engage the children in the program and often, on her way to work, she would stop to buy ingredients for a cooking project or the materials needed to make a particular craft.

“A co-worker said of her at the service



held to celebrate her life that she was creative, imaginative and funny. This, combined with her empathy, made her a favorite of ‘her girls,’” Dalton says. “She was very involved.”

After earning her UMass degree, Cavanaugh knew she wanted to continue her education, but until she worked in the Key Program, she was unable to narrow the focus she wanted to have. Working with the youngsters helped her to define a focus on social work, and she turned to Westfield State because the University had a new social work program, and her parents were from Westfield.

In addition, Cavanaugh’s paternal grandfather, Joe Wise, lived in Westfield, and Cavanaugh wanted to be closer to him. “There’s a lot of family history there,” Dalton says. “It was a natural fit.”

Dr. Robert C. Kersting, a professor of social work who knew Cavanaugh and her family, says she was an amazing young woman.

“She was extremely caring about the chil-

dren she worked with. She was bright and hard-working. She had two classes with me and was never afraid to disagree with me or ask me why I believed something was true,” he says. “She forced us all to become better critical thinkers while never losing sight of the pain our clients experience.”

Kersting says Cavanaugh created a video for her Human Behavior and Social Environment class in which she interviewed her paternal grandfather. “This video was the talk of the program for both the quality of her work and the power of the relationship she had with her grandfather,” Kersting says, adding, “Nan is missed by all of us whose lives she touched.”

Kersting says the faculty and staff of the University were honored that Nan’s family wishes to develop a scholarship in her name; he sees it as a lasting tribute to her desire to help, her motivation and her “spunk.”

The first Nancy S. Cavanaugh Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2014. Dalton looks forward to being there. “It’s about who Nan was,” she says. “She was somebody who could fill up a room. She had a huge voice, and she always spoke her mind and said her piece.

“The bottom line is she really was a very caring and loving young woman,” Dalton added. “If you were Nan’s friend, you felt her presence. She would have made a difference in peoples’ lives as a social worker. She was stubborn and determined and would insist on making things happen.” ■



Still Giving After All These Years

Outgoing Foundation Chair Sheridan “Bing” Carey ’65 continues to give to the Westfield State University community.

Having served as vice-chair of the Foundation Board and twice as chair, Carey has contributed throughout the years to the success of the Foundation, applying his life-long interest in investments for the University’s benefit. He has also given of himself in numerous other ways to the University.

Most recently, Carey and his wife, Eileen, donated a piano to the University’s Music program—just one more example of his generous spirit and commitment to students and faculty. ■

Enriching Minds, Changing Lives

Foundation supports University students, program, faculty

The Westfield State Foundation, Inc. is the fundraising agent of the University.

It raises much-needed scholarships and financial aid for current and prospective students, as well as funding for academic and programmatic initiatives.

Some of the most recent areas that received financial support are The Washington Center internship program, which integrates academic coursework with real-world experience, and the Science, Technology and Math internships that enable students to receive on-the-job training.

Also financed recently were athletic programs, the Interfaith Center, J-Term global experiences and academic scholarships.

The financial support for these endeavors is realized through the following vehicles:

The Annual Fund. This fund consists of operating resources that are used to meet the immediate needs of the University community and is comprised of gifts from loyal alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends. The fund supports financial aid and scholarships, as well as resources for course development, student internships, labs and equipment.

Endowed Funds. Endowed funds support the people, programs and activities of the University in perpetuity, including scholarships for students, faculty excellence and important programmatic needs. Endowments are currently established with gifts of \$10,000 or greater.

Planned Giving. Planned giving includes gifts made through bequests and estate instruments, which enable donors to meet their financial and philanthropic goals. There are several methods of planned giving. A Charitable Bequest is awarded to the Foundation at the time of death under a will or trust agreement.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is an agreement between the donor and Westfield State Foundation, Inc. and can be funded with cash or marketable securities. The Foundation will make fixed payments to donors over their lifetimes and /or the lifetime of a surviving spouse or beneficiary. The minimum gift to establish a CGA is \$10,000.

A Charitable Remainder Trust enables givers to place cash, securities or real estate into a separately managed trust that will pay a lifetime income to the giver/and or other beneficiaries, with the principal of the trust eventually passing to the Foundation.

To learn more about supporting the programs and initiatives of Westfield State University students and faculty, please contact Michael Knapik, Executive Director of University Advancement at (413) 485-7350. ■



Read Focus Online

Focus is available online in a new format, including video, room for comments and expanded content.

Read it at westfield.ma.edu/focus

The screenshot shows the 'FOCUS' website for Spring 2013. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Current Issue', 'Archives', 'Table of Contents', and 'Online Giving'. The main header features the 'FOCUS' logo and the tagline 'THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WESTFIELD STATE'. Below this is a search bar and a horizontal menu with categories: 'IN THIS ISSUE', 'On Campus', 'Alumni', 'Faculty/Staff', 'Athletics', 'Alumni News', 'Class Notes', and 'Foundation'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Commencement:** A large banner with a photo of a graduate and the text 'CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2013! Check out the photo gallery!' and 'On the Big Screen'.
- Featured Articles:** Includes 'Living His Dream' with a photo of a man and a 'Continue Reading' link.
- Mathematic Pride:** A text-based article about a grant from the National Science Foundation.
- Featured Videos:** Includes 'Mobius Works: Alumni at work TV spot' and 'We Are Westfield'.
- Alum of 50 Years Honored for Public Service:** Features a photo of Daniel Smith and a 'Continue Reading' link.
- Excellent Leaders:** A text-based article about students recognized in 2012.

