Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back (again)! As most of you know by now, we admitted the largest freshman class in the history of Westminster College. Learning Communities, Liberal Education courses, and the dorms are packed! While congratulations are due to the long hard work of Admissions, Financial Aid, the Start Center and all our student services areas, I also credit the faculty and academic programs that have worked so hard to improve the quality of students’ educational experiences here at Westminster. The word is getting around and our reputation continues to grow.

We have five new colleagues this fall and I hope you will extend to them the warm welcome that is part of the Westminster tradition. And in this newsletter you’ll find lots of tidbits about the accomplishments of your colleagues over the past six months. We’re also launching three new academic programs, the new M.S. in Counseling, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, and the Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. Keep your calendars open for the arrival in the spring of Sebastián Lipina, a noted neuroscientist from Argentina who will be our distinguished resident this year. In the meantime, I hope you’ve found time to enjoy the desert theme, whether expressed in literary, travel, or cocktail form—prickly pear margaritas!

Have a great fall!

PROGRAMS

BIOLOGY

Brian Avery will spend his Fall 2007 working on a collaborative project with Dr. Nipam Patel at UC Berkeley. The project is to lay the foundation to sequence the *Artemia* genome.

Bonnie Baxter was featured in the March 2007 issue of *Salt Lake* magazine as part of the article “Wonder Women: Five individuals changing Utah—and beyond.” The article discussed Bonnie’s work with Halophilic microorganisms in the Great Salt Lake. Bonnie was also awarded a National Science Foundation grant for her project, “Halophiles-2007: 7th International Congress Exploring Life at High Salinity.”

Christine Clay is our new faculty member in Biology and Environmental Studies. Christy is receiving her Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Utah, where she has also served as an undergraduate research mentor since 2002. Her dissertation research examined the ecological factors that affect disease in wildlife, and her most recent research has focused on the Hantavirus. She expresses interest in working with undergraduates to understand the ecology of wildlife diseases at the “urban–wildland interface.”

Jeff Habig is a new adjunct this fall for The Natural World. Jeff has a Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
**CHEMISTRY**

Please welcome William Deutschman as our new Biochemistry faculty member. He holds a Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry from the University of Oregon. He joins us from the Chemistry Department at SUNY Plattsburgh, where he has taught biochemistry classes and mentored undergraduate research students in a variety of topics related to protein folding and stability. He is excited to return to the west coast to enjoy “the stunning summers and fabulous backcountry skiing and climbing.”

**COMMUNICATIONS & MPC**

In April 2007, the MPC Program was featured in a story in the *Salt Lake Tribune*. The article, entitled “Westminster College Students Create Programs to get out the Word,” focused on the services that MPC students provide to non-profit organizations as part of the students’ field projects.

Rebecca Johnston is our newest faculty addition to Communications/MPC. She holds an M.S. in Communications from Utah State University and is pursuing her Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric through Texas Tech University, which she plans to complete by Spring 2008. For the past three years, she has been a faculty member at the Davis Applied Technology College, where she has taught English and Communication classes. Rebecca also has practical experience in her fields, including serving as a technical communicator at Iomega and IBM.

In October 2007, Christy Seifert will present at the 6th Biennial Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her presentation is “Can Risk Communication Be Invitational?: The Rhetorical Function of Expert and Non-Expert Personas in the Brookhaven National Laboratory Case.”

Kim Zarkin realized her lifelong dream of being a contestant on the quiz show Jeopardy; she was called to be part of an episode filmed in July 2007. The episode will air October 1, 2007.

In addition, Kim presented at the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) conference in Las Vegas in April 2007. Her presentation was called “First Amendment Issues” and was part of the panel Telecommunications Act Update – The Next Decade. Kim was also the BEA’s 2007 Program Convention Chair, responsible for organizing the more than 200 sessions held at the conference.

Natalie Barfuss joins us this fall as an adjunct instructor for Intro to Web Writing and Design (COMM 326). Natalie has her Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Utah and has worked as an adjunct instructor, an independent web contractor, and a magazine editor.
**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Dan Byrne will spend Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 analyzing three-dimensional forms shared by primitive, Palaeolithic, and modern sculpture using solid modeling software.

Greg Gagne received the Manford Shaw Faculty Publication Prize for the Seventh Edition of *Operating System Concepts with Java*, the book he coauthored and published in November 2006.

Robert Ricci will teach Computer Systems and Programming (CMPT 251) this fall. His research interests include distributed systems, networking, combinatorial optimization, security, embedded systems, and microprocessor architecture.

**EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE**

David Goldsmith presented a talk at the 2006 meeting of the Geological Society of America. His topic was the use of experiential learning in teaching stable isotope geochemistry.

**ENGLISH**

Georgi Donavin took over the Latin courses this year and spent a good part of the summer refreshing her Classical Latin and translating 13th Century Anglo-Latin poets for a chapter in her book on Marian poetry. At the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo last May, she organized two sessions in honor of Dhira B. Mahoney, an internationally known specialist in Arthurian Studies who recently retired from Arizona State. Georgi is now co-editing, with Anita Obermeier at University of New Mexico, a festschrift in Mahoney’s honor.

Elree Harris is working with David Hales to research, preserve, and catalog a set of rare Victorian prints owned by Westminster and part of the archives in the Giovalce Library. Hopes are to have the prints on display in the library in Spring 2008.

Christopher LeCluyse's article “Training as Invention: Topoi for Graduate Writing Consultants,” which he coauthored with Susan Mendelsohn from Saint Louis University, will appear in the book *Emerging Identities: Graduate Students in the Writing Center* soon to be published by Fountainhead Press. He will also tour with the vocal ensemble Conspirare and appear on their recording *Threshold of Night*, which will feature music of Tarik O'Regan and be released by Harmonia Mundi in early 2008.

Natasha Sajé published her essay, “Rhythm and Repetition in Free Verse, or the Poet as Witch” in *The Writer's Chronicle* in March 2007. She also has poems forthcoming in the *American Poetry Journal*, the *Cincinnati Review*, *Paper Street*, *VOLT*, and *Chelsea*, among others.

Dave Stanley is spending the fall semester teaching at Eőtvős Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary, as a Fulbright lecturer. He has a joint appointment in the American Studies Department and in the Department of Folklore and Ethnology. In his spare time, he's trying to learn Hungarian and is doing some research on the Great Plain of eastern Hungary.

Nicholas DeSpain joins us this fall as an adjunct instructor for ENGL 110 (Composition and Research). Nick has his M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England.

Kent Quaney is a new English adjunct for Fall 2007. Kent joins us from Sydney, Australia, where he received his M.A. in English and a Masters of Letters in Creative Writing from the University of Sydney.
Jeffrey Tucker will be teaching a section of Composition and Research in Fall 2007. Jeff holds his B.A. and M.A. in English from BYU, where he has also taught as an adjunct faculty member.

Daniel Westover joins us to teach a couple sections of Composition and Research. Daniel has his MFA from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. His dissertation title is “Stylistic Destinations: The Prosodies of R.S. Thomas, 1936–2000.”

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

In June, Jeff McCarthy attended a conference on the First Year Experience and Student Assessment in Savannah, Georgia. He also spoke and organized a panel about environmental studies at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference in South Carolina. His review of Gordon Wiltsie’s *To the Ends of the Earth* appears in the 2007 American Alpine Journal. In July, he was one of 12 professors selected to participate in the National Humanities Center’s Summer Seminar on modernism. In November, he will present a paper on “Joseph Conrad’s *Sublime*” at the Modernist Studies Association conference at USC. His book, *Contact: Mountain Climbing and Environmental Thinking* will be out in the spring from the University of Nevada Press.

**FILM STUDIES**

Doug Wright’s poem “Hymn of Hidden Hollow” was performed vocally and in choreographed dance in the September 2007 Brolly Arts production “The Legend of Hidden Hollow.” Doug received help from Ty Harrison and Lynne Olsen, who provided environmental and historical research for the poem.

**GENDER STUDIES**

During Spring 2007, Fatima Mujcinovic did extensive research on masculinity theories and criticism in an effort to refashion the introductory Gender Studies course (GNDR 100). Her research assistant, Jamee Roberts, a Sociology major, was accepted to three graduate schools. Jamee finally chose to attend the University of Pennsylvania, one of the top five graduate programs in social work.

In May, Fatima and Jen Simonds took a group of students to Argentina to study modern Argentine literature and culture. Visiting the cities of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and Mendoza, the group had eleven cultural and literary tours. In addition to gourmet food, excellent wine, and exquisite tango performances, some of the highlights of the two-week trip included: the Museum of Modern Latin American Art in Buenos Aires, (MALBA), the house of Jorge Luis Borges in Palermo, the Parana delta, the University of Cordoba (the second oldest university in South America), Che Guevara’s house in Alta Gracia, three Jesuit estancias in Cordoba, several cellars and wineries of Mendoza (the Argentine capital of wine), and the Andes mountains with its 23,000-foot Cerro Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Western hemisphere.

**HISTORY**


Susan Cottler presented her paper “In the midnight Hour.? A Righteous Resurrection of

In September 2007, Jeff Nichols received the Charles Redd Center Award for best general interest article in the *Utah Historical Quarterly* for his article, “The Boss of the White Slaves.” In October 2007, he presented a paper, “The Opposing Elements of Vice and Virtue,” at the annual Western Historical Association conference in Oklahoma City.

**HONORS**

In May, Richard Badenhausen delivered a paper at the American Literature Association meeting in Boston entitled “Do(ing) Trauma in *The Waste Land.”* In June, he traveled to Lincoln, NE, for the three-day meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Board of Directors, on which he sits. He also received a Gore Summer Research grant for his project, “He Do the Critic in Different Voices: the Literary Essays after 1927,” which will appear in *A Companion to T. S. Eliot* (Blackwell).

**JUSTICE STUDIES**

Fatih Balci joins us this fall to teach Human Rights and Terrorism. Fatih has his M.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Baltimore and is working on his Ph.D. at the University of Utah.

**LANGUAGES**

Deyanira Ariza-Velasco was invited to speak at the January 2007 Women College Club. Her presentation was titled “Immigration: Adapting to a New Culture in America/Americans, Adapting to a Changing Culture.”

Véronique Guetat-Otto joins us to teach Advanced French in Fall 2007. She has her Juris Doctorate from Bordeaux, France. In addition to her native French, she is also proficient in German and is starting to learn Hebrew.

**MATHEMATICS**

Carolyn Connell was honored as AAUW Distinguished Woman by the AAUW Wasatch Branch of Salt Lake County. Carolyn was honored for her work with the AWE+SUM summer camp for 8th-grade girls. Carolyn was also elected to a three-year term as the MAA (Mathematical Association of America) governor of this region.

**MCNAIR SCHOLARS**

Congratulations to Mary Jo Hinsdale and the entire McNair faculty for obtaining refunding for Westminster’s McNair Program in 2007! The federal government cut funding to many McNair programs around the country, and our program’s success is driven primarily by the efforts of Jo and the McNair faculty.

**MUSIC**

Karlyn Bond performed with the Intermezzo Chamber Music Series in July 2007. She also revised her companion booklet to her CD “Piano Classics from the World of Jane Austen,” scheduled for rerelease in September 2007.

**PHILOSOPHY**

Bridget Newell received the Peacemaker of the Year award from the Association for Global New Thought in late spring 2007. She also co-presented a paper with Bonnie Baxter, entitled “Science, Power, and Diversity: Integrating Hard Science into Honors Curriculum.”
Jeffrey Nielsen, Philosophy adjunct, was featured on KCPW as the organizer of the new Citizens Council on Immigration. In the article “‘Deliberative Democracy’ May Help Find Solution to Immigration,” Jeff is described as hoping to “change the atmosphere of immigration discussions from debate and advocacy to what he [Jeff] calls ‘deliberative democracy’ which brings ordinary citizens together to create dialogue and exchange ideas.”

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Michael Zarkin’s edited volume Organizational Learning in the Global Context, which he co-authored with M. Leann Brown, was published by Ashgate Press in the United Kingdom. The volume included one of Michael’s articles, entitled “U.S. Telecommunications Policy: A Process of Social Learning.”

**PSYCHOLOGY & MSCP**

Congratulations to the entire Psychology faculty for the approval of their new Masters of Counseling Psychology program. They accepted their inaugural incoming class this fall.

Laura Bennett-Murphy was hired as a new faculty member for the Masters of Counseling Psychology program. She has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Duke University and a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbus Children’s Hospital, Ohio State University. Previous to joining us, she taught for the Department of Psychology at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio. Trained in the scientist/practitioner model, her clinical experiences inform her teaching and research. As she puts it, her “teaching, research, and clinical work are defined by an abiding respect for human dignity, hope for change, and a deep commitment to advocacy for children.”

Angela Hicks had two papers accepted for publication in Personal Relationships. The first is entitled “Attachment Style and Two Forms of Affect Co-Regulation between Romantic Partners.” The other is “Effects of Physical Separation and Attachment Style on Day-To-Day Emotion Co-Regulation between Romantic Partners.”

Jennifer Simonds was published in the journal Cognitive Development for her paper “Effortful Control, Executive Attention, and Emotional Regulation in 7–10 Year Old Children.” Jen coauthored the paper with Jessica E. Kieras, M. Rosario Rueda, and Mary K. Rothbart.

Rachel J. Allyn joins us this fall as an adjunct instructor for Intro to Psychology. She holds her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Francisco, CA. She also has an M.A. in Political Science – Women’s Studies from Williams College.

Laura Crosetti will teach Abnormal Psychology this fall. Laura has her M.Ed. from Rutgers University and her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Utah.

Dorene Miya is our new adjunct instructor for Physiological Psychology in Fall 2007. Dorene holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Biopsychology from Hunter College of CUNY, and her dissertation emphasis was in developmental neuroscience.

**SOCIOLOGY**

Mark Rubinfeld was voted the student body’s 2006–2007 Professor of the Year. Also, in August 2007 Mark presented his paper “Theoretically Hollywood: Visualizing Social Theory through Popular Film” at the American
Sociological Association Annual Meeting in New York City.

Jade Aguilar joins us this fall as an adjunct for a section of Intro to Sociology. Jade is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado–Boulder, where she already obtained a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies.

**SPEECH & THEATRE**

Scott Gust joins us as the new faculty member for the Speech program. Scott received his Ph.D. in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University–Carbondale and was most recently a faculty member in the Department of Interpersonal Communication at Bowling Green State University. His emphases included critical communication pedagogy, intercultural communication, and performance studies. His research focuses on the communication of identity in the classroom, across the institutions of school, and in the culture of education.

Bryan Jacobs achieved his BFA from the University of Utah in June 2007. Also, the University Art Department and their selected Juror, Greg Allen, an art collector and critic from New York, awarded Bryan “Best of Show” and a Faculty Award of Merit for the painting he submitted to the Student Art Exhibit.

Paul Parkin joins us this fall as a new adjunct in Speech. Paul has a Master’s Degree in Communication Studies from California State University.