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.

Have a great fall!

Mary Jane Cleary

ART

One of David Baddley’s experimental films, La Seine Du Square Du Vert Galant 28/6/2010, 21h19, was shown at Open Screen Night at the Tower Theatre.

Hikmet Loe, along with Lance Newman, recently published “Desert Interventions,” a conversation accompanied by interviews with Ken Sleight, Jack Loeffler, and Jim Stiles in Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture 10.3 (2010). The conversation — from November 2009 between Loe, Newman, Roderick Coover, and Larry McCaffery — was initiated by Coover to discuss “how writing and images shape interpretations of the Western landscape.” The discussion moved through issues related to desert ecologies, personal experience and perception, and the impact of prominent writers and artists such as Edward Abbey, Robert Smithson, William Vollmann, and the Center for Land Use Interpretation, who provide us with unique facets of engagement with the land.

Jimmy Lucco was the Featured Artist for the Bountiful-Davis International Arts Festival this past August. Jimmy was also one of the invited artists for the Art Access “300 Plates” show that opened May 17th. He was also selected to design and build one of the 18 “Mini-golf” holes for a collaborative 337 art project that opened in the Salt Lake Art Center June 18th. Following the three month show, the exhibit traveled around the state. Jimmy was also one of the invited artists in “Arte Latino” held last February in the Kimball Art Center in Park City.

Kandace Steadman presented a paper at the Utah Museum Association annual conference in October. The paper outlined the steps to creating a virtual museum and was titled, “No space? No problem!”

BIOLOGY

Damian Madan was awarded a $150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled “Near-Infrared Substrates for Imaging Autotaxin Activity In Vivo.” He also coauthored a paper in the journal Molecular Cancer titled “Targeting Melanoma Growth and Viability Reveals Dualistic Functionality of the Phosphonothionate Analogue of Carba Cyclic Phosphatidic Acid.”
CHEMISTRY

Allyson Christensen attended the POGIL workshop/conference that was held at Westminster in July. She has implemented the POGIL teaching method and went to the workshop to pick up more pointers.

COMMUNICATION

Christy Seifert has a piece that will be in the next issue of Bitch Magazine. It’s called “Indecent Proposal: The Modesty Proposal.” She also sold her first young adult novel to Sourcebooks Fire. It will be in bookstores September 2011.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Greg Gagne worked with two students this summer on an undergraduate research project. The students, Kris Katsanevis and Amy Kovac, designed a simulation of the TCP/IP protocol. He also has a new edition of Operating Systems Essentials — an operating systems textbook he coauthored — being released in November 2010.


ENGLISH

Georgi Donavin spent the summer working on the last substantive revisions to her latest book and has now sent off the typescript of Scribit Mater: Mary and the Language Arts in the Literature of Medieval England to The Catholic University of America Press. She has also been participating on the program committee for the next meeting of The Medieval Academy of America and looks forward to attending that conference in April. This fall, Georgi is particularly enjoying her English 349 course (a special topics course in British literature). Our college has so many opportunities to see Shakespeare plays: at the Pioneer Memorial Theatre, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and of course, Henry V at Westminster.

Peter Goldman served as chief organizer of the fourth annual Generative Anthropology Summer Conference in June, on the theme of “The Anthropology of Modernity.” The conference was hosted by Westminster College, and scholars from several states and three countries attended. At this conference, he presented his paper “Milton’s Paradise Lost as Anthropology.” Peter was also appointed a founding board member of the Generative Anthropology Society and Conference (GASC), an organization to sponsor annual conferences and academic research.

Susan Gunter was the recipient of this year’s Manford & June Shaw Publication Prize for her book entitled Alice in Jamesland.

This summer, Chris LeCluyse performed in the finale of the Berkeley Early Music Festival with the San Francisco-based group Magnificat as well as in the Connecticut Early Music Festival with the Houston-based group Istanpitta. Chris also attended the International Writing Centers Association Summer Institute at the Quartz Mountain Resort in Oklahoma. He attended the Council for Independent Colleges/Collegiate Learning Assessment Consortium Meeting in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Fatima Mujcinovic will present at the 11th International Conference on Caribbean Literature, which will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on November 3-6, 2010. Her paper is entitled “Edwige Danticat’s The Farming of Bones: Countering Linguistic and Epistemic Violence.”
Lance Newman took the six student editors of Ellipsis to the Associated Writers and Writing Programs conference in Denver. His chapter on “Environmental Thought and Action” appeared in the new Oxford Handbook to Transcendentalism. He teamed up with friends to produce a conversation titled “Roderick Coover, Larry McCaffery, Lance Newman, and Hikmet Loe: A Dialogue about the Desert,” which was published by Electronic Book Review (April 2010). Lance’s anthology, The Grand Canyon Reader, is forthcoming from the University of California Press, with support from a Gore Research Grant from Westminster College. A poetry chapbook, 3by3by3, was published this summer by Beard of Bees Press and poems have appeared this year in BlazeVox, Sugar House Review, Moria, West Wind Review, and No Tell Motel.

Natasha Saje’s poems are forthcoming in The Kenyon Review, The North American Review, and the Penguin Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry. She completed her book manuscript, titled Vivarium, and an article about the job market for creative writers was published in the September issue of the AWP job list.

**HISTORY**

In October, Mary Jane Chase delivered a paper, “Et aures habentes non auditis: Getting the Message about Images in Sixteenth-Century Amiens,” at the 2010 Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Montreal.

Jeff Nichols delivered a paper called “In defence of God’s people if Need bee” at the Utah State History annual conference. His article of the same name will be in the fall 2010 Utah Historical Quarterly.

**HONORS**

Richard Badenhausen delivered a paper, “Traumatic Loss and Absence in The Waste Land,” at the American Literature Association meeting in San Francisco this past May. He received the Henkels Teaching Fellowship this summer to design an upper-level seminar entitled “Reading and Writing the City.” He spoke at two teaching/learning workshops at independent schools in the past few months: one at Rowland Hall-St. Marks in May (with Chris Cline and Bill Bynum) and one at The Hotchkiss School in October, where English Department faculty members from Deerfield, Exeter, Andover, Lawrenceville, Northfield, and Choate attended to learn about new pedagogies in higher education.

**MUSIC**

As president of Utah’s chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Jean Applonie organized a Church Music Workshop held on August 7, 2010. The workshop included a choral reading session, vocal training, and choral conducting training.

**PHILOSOPHY**

On October 6, 2010, Michael Popich hosted the 2010-2011 Tanner-McMurrin lecturer Dr. Arvind Sharma (McGill University). On October 7th, Michael participated in a public forum with Dr. Sharma, sponsored by Dr. Deen Chatterjee and the Philosophy Department of the University of Utah. The topic of the forum was “Human Rights, Religious Freedom and Christian Missions.” On November 4, 2010, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church (Park City) will host an open public forum on illegal immigration. Michael will begin the forum with a half hour discussion of the ethical and social justice issues raised by illegal immigration.

He will be an invited discussant, responding to a presentation by well known Canadian political
philosopher Frank Cunningham (Toronto). Dr. Cunningham’s presentation, November 5, 2010, at the University of Utah, is entitled “Democracy and Globalization.” Finally, on November 13, Michael is organizing and hosting the Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl qualifying competition here at Westminster College. A record number of seven different schools are expected to compete for two spots in the national 32 team competition held in March 2011 and hosted by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) at their annual meeting.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Michael Zarkin’s new book was just published by Cambria Press. It is entitled The FCC and the Politics of Cable TV Regulation, 1952-1980.

PSYCHOLOGY

In July, Laura Bennett-Murphy presented a paper at the International Psychotherapy Summer Institute on Child, Couple, and Family Therapy entitled “A Springy Tornado: Disorganized Attachment in Children of Refugees.” She will also present a paper at the National Training Institute, “Connecting Science, Policy, and Practice of Zero to Three.” Her paper is being co-presented by alum Lindsey Padjen and is entitled “Attachment and Development of Young Children of Refugees.”

Lesa Ellis is presenting a poster at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Conference in Chicago on October 30th. It is the project that she did with alum Raquel Gabbitas.

Angie Hicks presented a talk entitled “Adult Attachment Predicts Affective and Physiological Reactivity to Daily Intimacy with Romantic Partner” at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science in Boston, Massachusetts, held last May.

Cassie Power has been named to the Board of the Salt Lake City ACLU and has a paper in press.

Jennifer Simonds, along with McNair Scholar Kamille Sheikh, presented Kamille’s McNair summer project entitled “Relationships Among Shyness, Fear and Effortful Control in Middle Childhood” at the Occasional Temperament Conference at Bowdoin College in Maine October 9th. Jennifer also coauthored an article with 2008 Westminster Distinguished Resident, Sebastian Lipina, entitled “Recognizing the Child in Child Poverty” and is in press in Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies. Westminster played a key role in the paper: The collaboration began in Buenos Aires during a 2007 May Term trip with Fatima Mujcinovic’s class, and substantial work was done during Sebastian’s week as the Distinguished Resident during the spring of 2008.

Russ Costa’s dissertation work on attention, inhibition, and cognitive control was submitted for publication in the form of an article entitled “The Role of Inhibitory Processes in Task Switching.” His article on research methods textbooks, entitled “Methods Courses and Texts in Psychology: ‘Textbook Science and ‘Tourist Brochures’,” was accepted for publication in The Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology.

SOCIOLOGY

Kristjane Nordmeyer attended the American Sociological Association’s (ASA) annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, and presented a paper entitled “The Division of Household and Care Labor Among Spouses.”
**SPANISH**

Alan Davison’s webcomic/blog at http://blurtso.com is alive and well, posting a new episode every day. October 1st marked the one-year anniversary and 365 daily episodes.

In November, Brenda Lake will present her paper “The Glorified Death of Cuauhtémoc: Pictorial and Textual Concordances” at the Fourth International Congress of Writing, Individuals and Society from Spain, the Americas and Puerto Rico, which is organized by the University of Puerto Rico in Arecibo. Her research focuses on the analysis of a 19th Century novel in combination with the study of an Aztec codex, a pre-Hispanic pictorial book.

**SPEECH**

Christine Contestable successfully defended her dissertation last April. It was entitled “Becoming-Learning: Rethinking Transformative Education by Reconceptualizing Learner Agency and Illuminating the Immanent Dynamism of Classrooms.”

**WELCOME**

Katherine (Katy) Evans is a new assistant professor in the English Department. She received her BA in English with a minor in Women’s Studies from Dartmouth College in 2000 and her MA and PhD in English with a certificate in Indigenous Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010. Katy has lived on all three coasts, but is quickly warming to the Salt Lake home she shares with her husband, dog, and two cats, even as the temperature drops.

Betsy Kleba is a new assistant professor in the biology department, where her teaching and research interests center around cellular microbiology. A Wisconsin native, Betsy’s desire to explore mountains and desert led her to Utah, where she earned a BS in biology from the University of Utah. She received a PhD in Infectious Diseases and Immunity from the University of California, Berkeley, before securing a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health in Montana to continue her work on defining the molecular basis for the pathogenesis of obligate intracellular bacteria at Rocky Mountain Laboratories. While living there, she taught at the University of Montana and at local middle schools through the Biomedical Research After School Scholar program.

Hikmet Sidney Loe is the new Adjunct Coordinator for Westminster College, a position that complements her years as art history adjunct faculty. She received her BA in Art History from Pennsylvania State University (1980), her Masters in Library and Information Studies from University of California, Berkeley (1986), her MA in Art History from Hunter College, CUNY (1996), and has taught art history at the University of Utah and Weber State University. Her master’s thesis on Robert Smithson’s earthwork the Spiral Jetty has led to a passionate interest in land art and the land forms of the desert west. Her cumulative work on this subject, The Spiral Jetty and Rozel Point: Rotating Through Time and Place, is scheduled for publication in 2011 (Utah State University Press). Hikmet curated the exhibition Mirror Images: Great Salt Lake for the Great Salt Lake Institute and is a contributor to the online magazine 15 Bytes (artistsofutah.org).

Giancarlo Panagia is a new assistant professor in Justice Studies. He is originally from Florence, Italy, where he completed his Law degree (JD). After one year in the Italian military service (sigh!), he came to the US to attend and complete his MCL at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Afterwards, he
completed his LLM in Environmental and Natural Resources Law at the University of Utah, College of Law. Then he moved to Tempe, Arizona, to complete his PhD in Justice Studies at Arizona State University. After a two year visiting position at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, he joined the SJD program offered by the College of Law at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in Indianapolis, Indiana. If everything goes well, Giancarlo will defend his second dissertation this coming December (and be done with his student career!). Among other things, he is a real Green Party believer.

Luis I. Prádanos (Iñaki) is a new assistant professor in the Spanish Program. He received his BA in Humanities from University of Alcalá (Madrid, Spain) and his MA and PhD in Contemporary Spanish Literature from Texas Tech University. Iñaki has been appointed as a member of the editorial board of Cefiro Journal (a peer reviewed journal committed to the investigation and diffusion of Latin American and Iberian literary and linguistic studies and cultural creation). Iñaki has recently published a book chapter about an Argentinean writer titled “El multiperspectivismo narrativo de Saer: una lectura sistémica de Cicatrices” (“Narrative Multiperspectivism in Saer: A Systemic Reading of Cicatrices”). The book, Latin American Studies (2010), is now in SFA University Press. Finally, Iñaki presented a paper titled “Terrorismo e hiperrealidad: la mediatización del terror en el nuevo entorno tecnosocial” (Terrorism and Hyperreality: the Mediatization of Terror in the New Technosocial Environment) at the XI Congreso Internacional de Literatura Española Contemporánea, University of A Coruña (Spain) in June 2010.

Christine Stracey is a new addition to the Biology Department. She studies the effects of urbanization on bird communities in an effort to understand how nature works in places where people live and work. Christine received her BS in Biology from the College of New Jersey and her MA in Conservation Biology from Columbia University. She went on to receive her PhD in Biology from the University of Florida. Christine looks forward to working with Westminster students in the classroom as well as in the field. By studying urban ecology, students will have an opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom to their backyards. Furthermore, because so little work has been conducted in urban ecosystems, students will have the opportunity to contribute directly to the core of this emerging discipline and learn how to do science in the process.

Tonee Mower is a new administrative assistant in the Arts and Sciences Department. She recently graduated with a BA in Financial Services from Westminster College, and loved her experience at Westminster so much she decided to come back as an employee. Any chance she gets, she enjoys the outdoors, camping, hiking, or playing soccer.

FUTURE WESTMINSTERITES.....

Sonia Vasanti Power Patwari was born Friday, June 4, at 9:59 p.m. to Cassie Power and Neal Patwari. She is remarkable and beautiful. After 41 hours of labor, and ultimately a C-section, Cassie, Neal, and Sonia are all exhausted but doing very well. Sonia was 8 lbs. 8 oz. She is just so lovely... organized, easy to soothe, curious, engaged.

After 72 hours of labor and ultimately a C-section, Olive Emma Stieber was born on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:34 p.m. to Frank and Bonnie Stieber. She was 7 lbs. 8 oz. and almost 22 inches long. The family is doing remarkably well after the exhausting experience. The best news is Olive is extremely healthy and the easiest, most enjoyable baby two parents could ask for! At less than three weeks old, she can already hold
her head up and loves to take the world in through her big blue eyes.

WORKSTUDY UPDATE

Jordan Kamm is a psychology major. He was born in Saudi Arabia and has traveled all over the world. He is enjoying both Salt Lake City and Westminster College. He enjoys computer games, going to the local music shows, and exploring the city.

Noemi Martin was born and raised in Salt Lake City. This is her first year at Westminster and she is looking forward to her education here. She is an undecided major and looking for her niche, but whatever she decides she knows will be a great fit.

On August 5, 2010, Josh Overdiek married Kaylee Lynn Bell, his fiancé of one year.

Lisa Webber is a psychology major with an emphasis in Neuroscience. She moved to Utah a few years ago from Connecticut. Lisa is on the lacrosse team and is enjoying her first year at Westminster College. She loves the outdoors, snowboarding, and going to as many music events as she can.