Dear Colleagues,

It has been an eventful fall and early spring. We have completed four searches for new faculty and I look forward to introducing you to new colleagues in the fall. We have (once again) begun working on the design and construction of the science center with the help of VCBO architects. We have applied for several national grants, including an NEH Summer Institute that we hope will help put Westminster on the map nationally for Western Women’s History. As you will read below, it has also been an eventful and busy semester for individual faculty and their students. I was very pleased to see the number and quality of our student presentations at the Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research—a conference that we will host in two years. We are particularly proud of the 2nd place finish of the Ethics Team at the national championship. Once again Westminster has surprised its competition with the quality of our students and our faculty mentorship. Of course, this is no surprise to me or to any of you!

I write this during spring break, so when you read this we will be heading quickly towards the end of the academic year. Nonetheless, I encourage you to take a minute, pat yourselves on the back, and then plunge forward. Have a wonderful remainder of your semester!

Sincerely,

PROGRAMS

ART

David Baddley participated in an artists’ residency in Budapest last year, organized by the Hungarian Multicultural Center. As a related project, some of his work was included in the exhibit “Meghivo: Signals From/About Central Europe II,” which was shown last summer in Budapest.

David’s book Peace, Photographs, a photographic meditation on Salt Lake City’s International Peace Gardens in Jordan Park, was published by the Center for Documentary Arts (released Oct. 21). As a related project, he also had a solo exhibit: David Baddley, Peace Garden, at the Salt Lake Art Center (Oct. 21 - Dec. 30).

Some of David’s work is included in the upcoming book Central Europe through the Eye of International Artists, published by the Hungarian Multicultural Center.

Finally, David is giving a presentation, sitting on a panel, and participating in a roundtable discussion as part of the 2006–2007 Tanner Lecture on Human Values. The lecture will be held Wednesday, March 7th, in the Utah Museum of Fine Arts’ Dumke Auditorium.

Mel Halbach is co-teaching ART 200FN, Experiencing the Arts, with Suzanne Simpson this spring. He holds an MFA in Film/Video Production from the University of Utah and a B.S. in Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
Chad Tolley is teaching Printmaking (ART 340) this semester. Chad has his MFA in Printmaking from the University of Oregon and his BFA in Printmaking from the University of Utah.

**BIOLOGY**

Brian Avery and Bonnie Baxter's student, Misty Riddle, was selected by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) as a 2006 award recipient of the ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship. This fellowship is aimed at highly competitive students who wish to pursue graduate careers (Ph.D. or MD/Ph.D.) in microbiology. Fellows have the opportunity to conduct full time summer research at their institution with an ASM mentor and present their research results at the 2007 ASM General Meeting the following year if their abstract is accepted.

Ty Harrison was quoted in two Salt Lake Tribune articles. “Caring for a wonder” (Oct. 20, 2006) was about the FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake’s efforts to clean up the Great Salt Lake. “Urban Jungle: When Development Meets Nature” (Oct. 23, 2006) was about development in the Salt Lake Valley.

Arthur Morris is co-teaching two sections of BIOL 102, The Natural World, in Spring 2007. Arthur has his Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Ohio State University and an M.S. in Biology/Ecology from Utah State University.

Evan Riddle is teaching a section of BIOL 420, Senior Seminar, this spring. Evan has a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Utah and B.S. in Zoology from Weber State.

Rebecca Walter is teaching Principles of Biology II (BIOL 106) this semester. She is also working on her Doctorate in Biology at the University of Utah; her dissertation is entitled “The Biomechanics of Galloping and Acceleration in Dogs.” She holds an M.S. in Biology from the University of Utah and a B.S. in Biology from Alma College in Alma, MI.

**COMMUNICATION**

Kim Zarkin was quoted in the New York Daily News article “Liberals Seek to Restore Fairness on the Air” (Jan. 17, 2007), which cited her co-authored book The Federal Communications Commission.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**


Congratulations to Helen Hu on the birth of her son Evan in September 2006.

**ENGLISH**

Chris LeCluyse's article that was published in Catholic Southwest will share the Weddle Award for best article in the publication. The piece, “Music in Glass: The St. Cecilia Window,” traces the iconography of a stained-glass window at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Austin, Texas, and relates it to the history of that church's music program and the role of music within the Roman Catholic liturgy. Chris also appeared in a nationally broadcast PBS special, The Mystery of Love, and performed three concerts of music from the Spanish and English Renaissance for the San Francisco Early Music Society.

Last October, Georgi Donavin was keynote speaker for the Medieval Colloquium at Boise State. She gave a lecture about the late medieval poet John Lydgate and his representation of the Virgin Mary as a Lady Rhetorica. Lydgate's "The Life of Our Lady" employs light imagery to spotlight the Virgin's gifts of speech and her mastery of the liberal arts.
Natasha Sajé’s poems are forthcoming in the Cincinnati Review, Wheelhouse Magazine, Salt Flats Annual, and Best American Poetry.


Please help us welcome Andrea Hollander Budy, Westminster College’s first visiting poet-in-residence. Andrea is teaching a Spring 2007 creative writing course and a poetry workshop. In addition, Andrea will read her poetry on March 15, 2007. She and her husband join us from Mountain View, AR. Andrea is writer-in-residence at Lyon College in Arkansas and is the winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize, the D. H. Lawrence Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, the Runes Poetry Award, and fellowships from the Arkansas Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Lee Blouin is teaching a section of Introduction to Literature (ENGL 220) this spring. Lee holds an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Arizona and a B.A. in English Literature from Central Michigan University.

Chris Horner is teaching a section of Introduction to Literature. He holds a Ph.D. in British and American Literature from the University of Utah and an M.A. in Creative Writing from City College in New York, NY.

GENDER STUDIES

The Gender Studies Program held its annual lecture on November 15, 2006, featuring Matthew Basso, a professor of History and Gender Studies at the University of Utah. Dr. Basso gave a presentation on masculinity theories and discussed his research on cultures of manhood in the American West.

HISTORY

Michael Markowksi’s paper, “Teachers in Early Christianity,” has been accepted for the History of Christianity Section of the regional American Academy of Religion to be held March 3–4, 2007.

HONORS

In October, Richard Badenhausen delivered a paper, “Extinguishing the Personality: Poetic Creation as Traumatic Occasion in T. S. Eliot,” at the annual Modernist Studies Association meeting. In November, Badenhausen attended the National Collegiate Honors Council annual convention in Philadelphia, where he chaired a session on “Best Practices in Honors Web Design and Usage,” co-chaired the Student Interdisciplinary Research Panel strand at the conference, and attended NCHC Board of Directors meetings. At the NCHC convention, he was approved by the Board as an NCHC Recommended Site Visitor. Badenhausen also sits on the NCHC Nominating Committee, the NCHC Strategic Planning Committee, and the 2007 & 2008 Conference Planning Committees. Closer to home, he was recently named to a three-year term on the Rowland Hall-St. Mark’s Board of Trustees.

LANGUAGES

At the end of March 2007, Deyanira Ariza-Velasco will attend the XI International Conference of The Royal Academic of the Spanish Language in Medellin, Colombia. The event will be attended by noteworthy people, including the king and queen of Spain.

Mlle. Fanny Grosse is teaching Advanced French II (FREN 321) this semester. She has an M.A. in French Literature from the University
of Utah, where she also helps instruct French classes.

**MATHEMATICS**

Bill Bynum, Carolyn Connell, Janine Wittwer, and Lorel Preston (Education) are working with adjunct faculty Larry Stott and students Megan Gorringe, Chelsea McCarty, and Tyler Sherry along with the Center for Civic Engagement to develop a service learning component for the math department. The project will bring Portable-On-Demand Mathematics (POD-Math) to local middle and high schools. Westminster math students will offer tutoring services, in-class workshops, and after-school programs. The faculty hope to capture all the resulting mathematical epiphanies, distill them, put them in a bottle, and sell the result. It’ll be called Epsilon, where any small positive quantity will have the desired effect.


**MUSIC**

Chris Quinn hosted the Spelman Choir from Atlanta for a concert in January 2007. The Chamber Singers also held a Chinese New Year celebration concert with visiting students from Nankai University, China. The Chamber Singers will celebrate their 10-year anniversary with a banquet and concert on April 27th and 28th.

**PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION**

Westminster’s Ethics Team, under guidance of Michael Popich and Bridget Newell, took second place in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship in Cincinnati. The team is comprised of four students: Asia Ferrin, Ali Jahromi, Blakely Nielson, and Nissa Roper. To reach nationals, the team took first place in the regional Ethics Bowl, defeating Utah Valley State College, University of Utah, and University of Colorado (Boulder). In the national competition, they defeated teams like Texas A&M, U.S. Naval Academy, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Texas Pan American, and Clemson University. They were defeated in the final round by the University of Miami, the only other undefeated team in the tournament.

Bridget sums up the team’s feelings about the experience:

As disappointing as the loss was, the team was proud of its accomplishments. They knew they were prepared, but had no idea that they would take second place in the nation. With each win they gained the admiration and support of the other players as well as the respect of the coaches and judges. They were, by most informal and official feedback, the most well-prepared of the schools competing.

Congratulations to the team!

William Shackman is co-teaching The Bible with Michael Popich this semester. William is ABD at NYU and possesses a Certificate of Study in Hebrew Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Halacha, and Jewish Thought from the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, Israel. He also received his B.A. in Philosophy and Religious Studies from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

**PHYSICS**

Two of Peter Conwell’s students, Edwin Solak and Amy Rogers, will present posters at NCUR, (the National Conference on Undergraduate Research) at Dominican University in San Rafael, CA, on April 12th through April 14th. Ed’s paper is titled “Phase Transitions of Entropy and Mutual Information in Fully Connected, Directed,
Networks,” and Amy’s is “Evolvability of Totally Connected Networks.”

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Michael Zarkin will present a paper at the Western Political Science Association on March 8 in Las Vegas. The title of the paper is “Organizational Learning in Novel Policy Situations: Two Cases of US Communications Regulation.”

**PSYCHOLOGY**

Colleen Sandor went to Africa over the break and volunteered at an AIDS hospice.

Barb Smith’s learning community with Leslie Robbins was featured in a *Salt Lake Tribune* article entitled “Fourth-graders join Westminster students in exploring immigration” (Dec. 4, 2006).

Ted Gardner is teaching a section of PSYC 303, Lifespan Developmental Psychology, this spring. He has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and an M.S. in Psychology, both from the University of Oregon.

Danica Richins is teaching a section of Intro to Psychology (PSYC 105) this semester. She received her B.S. in Sociology from Westminster and holds an MSW from the University of Utah.

**SOCIOLOGY**

Mark Rubinfeld will present a paper, “No Dog and Pony Show: Teaching a Substantive Popular Culture Class Without Losing Your Cool,” at the Popular Culture Association National Meeting in Boston in April. Furthermore, he will be chairing an undergraduate panel on “Popular Culture Perspectives” in which the following Westminster students will present on their topics: Asia Ferrin, “Affluential Ethics: Why Can’t We Stop Consuming?”; Kirsty McLaren and Breanne Nalder: “Hot Girls! Pornography’s Influence on Popular Culture, Gender Construction, and Bedroom Intimacy”; and Eliza Tompkins: “Cool Psychology: Therapeutic Applications of Popular Culture.” This is the first time in the 37-year history of the Popular Culture Association that its National Meeting will be including a panel exclusively comprised of undergraduate students.

**SPEECH & THEATRE**

Michael Vought wants to thank everyone for their help, support, and patience during the visit of the UTA Festival here on campus in January 2007. The Festival was a huge success, and generated over 100 inquiries for Westminster.

Susan Knott is teaching a section of Public Presentations this semester. She holds two degrees from the University of Utah: an M.A. in Interpersonal Communication and a B.A. in English with an emphasis on American Studies.

Jenni Lou Oakes is teaching a section of Public Presentations this spring. Jenni has an MFA in Acting from Kent State University and a B.A. in Fine Arts from Judson College.