



As part of the Valuing Water Miniconference, the Western Center partnered with Three Valley Conservation Trust to organize a service learning opportunity to restore the wetlands at Ruder Preserve on Four Mile Creek in Oxford.

Twenty-three students and faculty members pitched-in to plant native species, remove invasive ones, and build trails.

WAAMU 2021 Spring Newsletter

Dear Alumni,

There were a few broken links in the first newsletter that went out last week. We apologize for this mistake! Below is the newsletter with working links!

It's spring 2021, the pandemic appears to be slowly on its way out, and maybe the U.S. is inching (millimetering?) toward a better, more just society. Do we dare hope? Yes, because hope is essential. Also essential, or at least of interest, for Westernaphiles are updates about what's happening on campus, with fellow alumni and events, current Western students, and more. *Here are a few tidbits:*

Virtual Alumni Weekend, Western College Spotlight June 12: The old fogeys, aka alumni like you and me, will not be getting together in person this year in Oxford, but there will be virtual events, including a cool, multidisciplinary presentation from the Western Center for Impact and Innovation about the focus of the past two years on water. [Register today!](#)

July talent show and wine tasting — all done virtually! Singers, dancers, poets, and other performers, we want YOU! Or suggest someone you miss seeing/hearing perform... We'll pair this modernized community dinner entertainment with a wine tasting led by Oxford wine aficionado Jack Keegan. Dates still being confirmed, but we are thinking a Thursday or Friday. Please contact waamu@miamioh.edu and let your talents shine.

Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation is booming. Jacqueline Daugherty, Acting Director, has lots to share with us, including a overview of this year's seniors and news about next years'—33 of them!, info on how the March 19 virtual "Valuing Water Minicon" went, and next two years' audacious study topic, "Reparations as Restorative Justice." [Read Jacque's Roundup Here.](#)

Want to know more about senior projects? Titles of this year's projects included "Making Wine More Approachable," "The Essential Nature of Twin Research," and "How Business Leaders Create Revolutionary Change." Plus a video essay exploring the color red, Jungian psychology, and Stanley Kubrick (link is in Jacque's piece). That's just a taste — see the full lineup of the ever-interesting inquiry that our Individualized Studies seniors presented [here.](#)

Idea on deck — ghost stories from Western College: Have a paranormal story to share? We want to hear them. Helen Peabody-centric stories optional. We have this event brewing for the fall, so start rustling up the unexplained, the creepy, the mysterious from your days on Western campus. Or go ahead and email them now — we'll compile in the meantime.

They did what?! Western community lives: The pandemic forced isolation upon us, but it also reconnected some folks. I have been lucky to reconnect with some fellow '86/'87 alums via Zoom nearly every month. Booming-voiced, bird-loving Kevin Hils, '85 sent in this [wonderful story](#) of reconnection. Don't miss [Kent Ernsting, '78, tell us about an epic northern canoe trip](#) with Western folks. Are you in community with Westerners? Let us know—send your stories and/or photos to waamu@miamioh.edu or post to the [WCPAA Facebook page.](#)

Board updates: As you can see we are all hard at work, help us keep it going -- apply to be a member of the board [here.](#) In the meantime, vote for those that have already applied [here.](#)

It's always nice to connect with Western alums and friends of Western. To that end, we are updating contact info — can you help? Please let us know.

In the meantime, may the circle be unbroken in the healthier days ahead!

Laura Dobbins, '86
WAAMU Editor
P.S. Questions? Comments? Accolades? Email the board at waamu@miamioh.edu.

**WAAMU = Western Alumni Association at Miami University*

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